Lucii Annei Se=

necæ Tragedia prima quæ inſcri-
bitur Hercules furens nuper recognita, & ab
omnibus mendis, quibus antea ſcatebat ſedu-
lo purgata, & in ſtudioſæ iuuentutis vtilitatẽ,
in Anglicum metrum tanta fide conuerſa, vt carmen
pro carmine quoad Anglica lingua patiatur
pene redditum videas.

Per Iaſperum Heywodum Oxonienſem.

The firſt Tra=

gedie of Lucius Anneus Seneca,
intituled Hercules furens, newly perused and
of all faultes whereof it did before abound di-
ligently corrected, and for the profit of young
ſcholliers ſo faithfully tranſlated into En-
gliſh metre, that ye may ſe verſe for verſe
tourned as farre as the phraſe of the en
gliſh permitteth

By Iaſper Heywood ſtudient
in Oxford.

¶ TO THE RIGHTE honorable Syr William Harbert of the honorable order of the garter knight, Lorde Harbert of Cardyffe, Earle of Penbrocke & one of the Queenes maiesties most honorable Pryuie councell, his daylye Oratour Jasper Heywood wissheth prosperous health with encreese of honour and vertue.

The most excellent and famous learned clearke Erasmus of Roterodā among so many learned volumes whiche he in hys lyfe tyme wrote, with such excellency, that they yet do and euer shal preserue the name and renowne of so worthye

thye a man, euen for that only thyng woon not the least praise among learned mẽ, nor deserued least thanke of posteritie, that he so well and truely translated oute of Greeke into latin two tragedies of Euripides, whereof the one is named Hecuba, & the other Iphiginia. For as all men that can iudge of that worke, must needes highly commend him that hathe so lernedly done it so muste all studientes of the Greeke tongue needes render him great thãkes, that hath opened thẽ such a gate therto Whẽ I therfore (most honorable Earle) considered wyth

my selfe that suche a man of
Whome the Worlde yet after
his deth reloiwndes, disdaind
not sometyme to leaue euen
the studye of the diuine scrip-
tures to turn his pen a While
to the profite and furtherãce
of youth, I thought it not re-
pugnãt to my duty if I shold
also for a time set a side ỹ bo-
kes of old Philosophers, Ari-
stotle and Plato, and once en-
deuour to shew my selfe so lo-
uing to my countreye, as to
helpe for the small talẽt that
god hath geuẽ me, to conduct
by som meanes to further vn
derstãdig the vnripened schol
lers of this realm, to Whom I
thought

thought it shoulde be no lesse
thankful for me to enterprete
som latyn Work into this our
owne tongue, then for Eras-
mus in Latyn to expounde
the Greeke, to them that are
already good and perfite lati-
nistes. Neither coulde I satis-
fie my self, til I had through
oute thys Whole tragedye of
Seneca a graue and Wise Wri
ter so trauailed that I had in
englysh geuen verse for verse,
(as far as the englysh tongue
permitts) and Word for Word
Wyth the latyn: Whereby I
might both make some tryal
of my self, and as it were tech
the little children to goe that

yet canne but creepe. Whiche thing when I had broughte to passe, & fully finished thys little worke, I thought with my self how gretly it mighte auail me, to haue the authoritie of som noble mā, my shield against the sting of euil tōgs. Wherfore when I considered that your honor so gretly fauoured lernīg, that ye vouchsafed to sēd vnto the vniuersitie of oxford, of which I am a mēbre, your derest & eldest son my lord Henry whom I haue there well knowen, and so to trade him in time of tēder yeres, that hysriper age, might bothē geue your honor cause

to ioy i him: vs to thãk your
honor for him, I haue presu-
medvpõ hope of pardõ for my
boldnesse, & rather for his sake
to dedicate this simple Worke
vnto your honour, as Well to
signifie the poore good Wyll
of a scholler, as also to render
to your honor most hũble thã
kes, that it hath plesed so ho-
norable an Erle to honor our
vniuersitie of Oxforde, With
the presẽce of such a yõg lord
so Worthye a Gentlemã. The
Whiche my attempt I truste
your honour Wil for this the
rather pardõ, that although
this simple Woorke, Which I
here offer be farre vnWorthy

to

to be of your honor receiued, yet is it a meete gift for me to present: Who as I am a scholler, so cã I geue nothing but a schollers gifte, namely the practise of my pen, the which beseching your honour none otherwise to accept thẽ Christ accepted the two mites Whiche the poore Womã offred in the tẽple, I end With praier to hym, for the prosperous continuance and encrease of your lordshippes honorable estate and dignitie.

FINIS.

The Argument of this Tragedy.

IVno the wife and sister of Iupiter, hatyng his bastarde broode, cometh down from heauen, complaining of all his iniuries done to her, deuising also by what despite she maye bere his base sonne Hercules. And hauyng by experience proued, no toiles to be too hard for him, findeth the meanes to make his owne hand his owne vengeance. Hercules therfore returnyng now from hell (from whens he was enioyned to fet Cerberus) And findynge that the tyrant Lycus had inuaded his countrey, destroieth the tyrant. For the which victorie as he sacrificeth to his goddes, wrathefull Iuno strikes him into a sodain franesy: wher with he beynge sore vexed, thynkyng to slea the children and wife of Lycus, in stede of them, killeth his owne wife and children in his madnesse. This doone he sleapeth. Iuno restoreth to hym agayne his wittes. He beyng wakte, seing his wife and children slain by his owne hande, at laste also wouldo kyll hymselfe.

The speakers.

Iuno	Lycus
Thorus	Hercules
Megara	Theseus

Amphitryon.

ACTVS PRIMVS.

Iuno, sola.

Trimetri Iambici.

Oror Tonantis, (hoc enim
solum mihi
Nomẽ relictum est) semper
alienum Iouem;
Ac tẽpla summi uidua de-
serui ætheris,
Locũq; cœlo pulsa pellici-
bus dedi.
Tellus colenda est, pellices cœlum tenent.
Hinc, Arctos alta parte glacialis poli,
Sublime classes sydus Argolicas agit.
Hinc, quà tepenti vere laxatur dies,
Tyriæ per vndas vector Europæ nitet.
Illinc, timendum ratibus, ac ponto gregem,

Passim

THE FYRSTE ACTE.

Iuno alone.

I Syster of the thunderer,
(for nowe that name alone
remaynes to me) Ioue euermore
as though deuorste and gone,
And temples of the hyghest ayre
as wydowe shunned haue,
And beaten out of skyes aboue
the place to harlots gaue.
I muste goe dwell beneathe on grounde,
for hoores doo holde the skye.
From hens the beare in parte aboue
of ycye poale full hye,
A haughty starre the greekysh shypps
by seas dothe guyde about.
Frō this way, whēs at spryng tyme warme
the daye is loased out,
Europaes bearer through the waues
of Tyria shynes full bright.
From thens, their stormy fearefull flocke
to shypps, and seas affright,

Passim vagantes exerunt Atlantides:
Fera coma hinc exterret Orion deos:
Suasq; Perseus aureas stellas habet.
Hinc clara Gemini signa Tyndaridę micant:
Quibusq; natis mobilis tellus stetit.
Nec ipse tantum Bacchus, aut Bacchi parens,
Adiëre superos: nequa pars probro vacet,
Mundus puellæ serta Gnossiacæ gerit.
Sed vetera querimur: vna me dira ac fera
Thebana nuribus sparsa tellus impiis,
Quoties nouercam fecit? ascendat licet,
Meumq; victrix teneat Alcmene locum,
Pariterq; natus astra promissa occupet,
In cuius ortu mundus impendit diem,

Tardus.

The wandryng daughters here and there
of Atlas vpwarde swaye.
With staryng bushe of heare from hens
Orion gods dothe fraye:
And Perseus eke his glyttryng starres
of golden glosse hathe heere.
From hens the twynns of Tyndars stocks
doe shyne, a sygne full clere:
And at whose byrth fyrst stoode the grounde
that erste went too and fro.
Nor onely Bacchus nowe hymselfe,
or Bacchus mother lo,
Haue clymbde to gods: least any parte
shoulde from rebuke be free,
The skyes the Gnossian strumpets crounes
doe beare in spight of mee.
But I of olde contempts complayne:
me, one dire, fierce, and shrewde
Thebana lande, with wicked broode
of Ioues bals daughters strewde,
Yowe ofte hath it a stepdame made:
though vp to heauen shoulde rise,
The conquerynge drabbe Alcmena nowe,
and holde my place in skies,
And eke her sonne to promysde starres
obtayne the woorthye waye,
At byrthe of whome the staying worlde
so long deserde the daye,

Tarduſq; Eôo Phœbus effulſit mari,
Retinere merſum iuſſus Oceano iubar:
Non ſic abibunt odia. viuaces ager
Violentus iras animus, & ſæuus dolor
Æterna bella (pace ſublata) geret.
Quid bella? quidquid horridum tellus creat
Inimica, quicquid pontus, aut aër tulit
Terribile, dirum, peſtilens, atrox, ferum,
Fractũ, atq; domitũ eſt: ſupat, & creſcit malis,
Iraq; noſtra fruitur: in laudes ſuas
Mea vertit odia: dum nimis ſæua impero,
Patrem probauit. inde, qua lucem premit,
Aperitq; Tethys, qua ferens Titan diem,
Binos propinqua tingit Æthiopes face,

Indomita

And Phœbus slowe from mornyng sea
begoon to glyster bryght,
Commaunded long in th'ocean waues
to hyde his drowned lyght:
Yet shall my hates not leaue them so.
a wrathfull kyndlyng rage
His mynde in madnesse shall styrre vp,
and yre that maye not swage
Shall euermore (all peace layde downe)
wage warres eternally.
What warrs? what euer hydous thyng
the earthe his ennemy
Begetts, or what soeuer sea,
or ayre hath brought to syght
Bothe dredfull, dire, and pestylent,
of cruell fiercest myght,
Tis tierde, and taemde: he passeth all,
and name by ylls dothe rayse,
And all my wrathe he dothe enioye:
and to his greatter prayse
He turnes my hates: whyle tedyous toyles
to muche I hym beehest,
He proues what father hym begot.
bothe thens, where lyght opprest
Hath ses, and where it showde agayne,
where Titan daye dothe trayne,
And with his brande approchyng neere
dothe dye those Aethiops twayne,

Indomita virtus colitur: & toto deus
Narratur orbe. monstra iam desunt mihi,
Minorq; labor est Herculi iussa exequi,
Quàm mihi iubere: lætus imperia excipit.
Quæ fera tyranni iussa violento queant
Nocere iuueni? nempe pro telis gerit
Quæ timuit, & quæ fudit: armatus venit
Leone, & Hydra: nec satis terræ patent,
Effregit ecce limen inferni Iouis,
Et opima victi regis ad superos refert.
Parum est reuerti, fœdus vmbrarum perit.
Vidi ipsa, vidi (nocte discussa inferum,
Et dite domito) spolia iactantem patri
Fraterna. cur nō vinctum, & oppressum trahit

Ipsum

His ſtrengthe vntaunde is honoured:
and god eche where is he
Nowe calde in woꝛld. and nowe moꝛe ſtꝛo
of monſters want to me,
And labour leſſe to Hercles is
t'accomplyſhe all my wyll,
Then me to bydde: at eaſe he doothe
myne imperies fulfyll.
What cruell heſtes of tyꝛaunt nowe
ſo fierce a yong man maye
pꝛeuayle to hurte? foꝛ loe he beares
foꝛ weapons nowe awaye
What once he fearde, and put to flyght:
he armed comes at lyde
With lyon fierce, and Hydꝛa bothe:
noꝛ lande ſuffiſeth wyde,
But bꝛoake he hath the thꝛeſholde lo
of that infernall Joue,
And ſpoyles with hym of conquerde kyng
he dꝛawes to godds aboue.
But thats but lyght, bꝛoke is the leagus
of ſpꝛighles that there doo dwell.
I ſawe my ſelfe, I ſawe hym loe
(the nyght nowe gone of hell,
And Ditis taemde) thꝛowe out abꝛoade
betoꝛe his fathers ſyght
His bꝛothers ſpoyles. Why dꝛawes he not
appꝛeſſe and bounde by myght

Ipſum catenis paria ſortitum Ioui?
Ereboq́; capto potitur, & retegit Stygas?
Patefacta ab imis manibus retro via eſt,
Et ſacra diræ mortis in aperto iacent.
At ille (rupto carcere vmbrarum) ferox
De me triumphat, & ſuperbifica manu
Atrum per vrbes ducit Argolicas canem.
Viſo labantem Cerbero vidi diem,
Pauidumq́; ſolem: me quoq; inuaſit tremor,
Et tetra monſtri colla deuicti intuens,
Timui imperaſſe. leuia ſed nimium queror,
Cœlo timẽdum eſt, regna ne ſumma occupet,
Qui vicit ima. ſceptra præripiet patri,
Nec in aſtra lenta veniet (vt Bacchus) via:

Hymselfe in chaynes that equall thynges
to Ioue by lotte dooth holde:
And beare the rule of captyue hell,
and waye to Styx vnfolde:
Vp opened is from loweſt ghoſts
the backewarde waye to ſhye,
And ſacred ſecrets of dire deathe
in open ſyght doo lye.
But he (the dredfull denne of ſpyrights
breake vp) full fierce and ſtout
Euen ouer me doothe triumphe is,
and with prowde hande about
The foule black dogge by Grekiſhe townes
he leades from hell awaye.
When ſeene was vgly Cerberus
I ſawe the fadyng daye,
And fearefull ſoon: euen me lykewyſe
a trembliyng dreade oppreſſe,
And lookyng on the fylthy nacks
of conquerde monſtrous beaſte,
I feared muche myne owne behefts.
but lyght thyngs I complayne,
For heauen I maye be frayde, leaſt he
may get the hyghеſt rayne,
That loweſt woon. the ſceptors from
his father wyll he take,
Nor he to ſtarrs (as Bacchus dyd)
his waye wyll gently make:

The

Iter ruina quæret, & vacuo volet
Regnare mundo. robore expenſo tumet,
Et poſſe cœlum viribus vinci ſuis,
Didicit ferendo: ſubdidit mundo caput,
Nec flexit humeros molis immenſæ labor:
Mediuſq; collo ſedit Herculeo polus.
Immota ceruix ſydera, & cœlum tulit:
Et me premente, quærit ad ſuperos viam.
Perge ira, perge, & magna meditãtẽ opprime,
Congredere, manibus ipſa iam lacera tuis.
Quid tanta mandas odia? diſcedant feræ:
Ipſe imperando feſſus Euryſtheus uacet.
Titanas auſos rumpere imperium Iouis
Emitte: Siculi verticis laxa ſpecum.

Tellus

The waye with ruyne wyll he seeke,
and be in empty skyes
Wyll reygne alone. with force displayde
his haughtye harte doothe ryse,
And he, that heauen it selfe, by force
of his myght gotten bee,
It bearyng learnde: quight vndernethe
the worlde his headsette he,
Nor ones his shoulders bowde, the payse
of suche a myghty mas:
And mydst of heauen on Hercles necke
alone lo settled was.
His necke vnwryde the starrs aboue
and skies dyd onelye staye:
And me lykewyse oppressyng hym,
to Gods he seekes the waye.
Goe Ire, goe on, and beate hym downe
that greate thynges doothe inuent,
Matche thou with hym, and with thy hands
nowe thou thy selfe hym rent.
Suche hates why dooste thou meditate:
Lette all wylde beastes nowe go:
And weary Eurystheus nowe be free
from geeuyng charges mo.
The Titans daryng once of Joue
to breake the imperye
Sende out: lette loase the denne abroade
of mounte of Sicilye.

The

Tellus gigante Doris excusso tremens,
Supposita monstri colla terrifici leuet.
Sublimis alias luna concipiat feras.
Sed vicit ista. quæris Alcidæ parem?
Nemo est, nisi ipse. bella iam secum gerat.
Adsint ab imo Tartari fundo excitæ
Eumenides, ignem flammeæ spargant comæ,
Viperea sæuæ verbera incutiant manus.
I nunc superbe, cœlitum sedes pete.
Mouenda iam sunt bella, clarescit dies.
Humana temnens iam Stygа & manes, ferox
Fugisse credis? hîc tibi ostendam inferos.
Reuocabo in alta conditam caligine
Vltra nocentum exilia discordem deam.

The Dorycke lande that with the turnes
of gyant quakes afrayde,
Let it bryng foorthe the dredefull neckes
of monster vnderlayde.
Let yet the haughty moone aboue
some other beastes beeget.
But these ye ouercame. seekst thou
a matchet Alcides yet?
Thers none, except hymselfe: let hym
agaynst hym selfe rebell.
Let present bee from bottome deepe
vprayse of lowest hell
Th'Eumenides, let flamyng lockes
of theyrs the fyres out flyng,
And furious handes beestowe about
the stroakes of vypers styng.
Goe nowe full prowde, and skale the skyes
to seates of godds make waye.
Nowe must thy batteis wagen be,
full cleere loe shynes the daye.
Despise mãs worke: thinkst ỹ fierce wight
that hell and soules alowe
Thou hast escapte? naye here I wyll
an other hell the showe.
In deepe myne hyd I wyll call vp
frome bottome lowe of hell
Beyonde the wayes of gylty ghostes
debatefull goddesse fell.

Qua mugit ingens montis oppositi specus,
Educam, & imo Ditis è regno extraham
Quicquid relictum est. veniat inuisum scelus
Suumq; lambens sanguinem impietas ferox,
Errorq;, & in se semper armatus furor.
Hoc, hoc ministro noster vtatur dolor.
Incipite famulæ Ditis: ardentem incitæ
Concutite pinũ: & agmen horrendũ anguib'
Megæra ducat: atque luctifica manu
Vastam rogo flagrante corripiat trabem.
Hoc agite, pœnas petite violatæ Stygis,
Concutite pectus: acrior mentem excoquat,
Quàm qui caminis ignis Ætneis furit.
Vt possit animo captus Alcides agi

Magno

where as the roaryng dredfull denne
resoundes with cries about,
From deepest bonde of Ditis raigne
beneathe I will fette out,
what so is lefte. Let hatefull hurte
nowe come in anger woode,
And fierce impietie emprewe
hym selfe with his owne bloode,
And errour eke, and fury armde
agaynste it selfe to fogbt.
This meane, this meane, let wrath of myne
nowe vse to shewe my mygbt.
Begyn ye seruantes nowe of hell:
the kerue nt burnyng tree
Of pyne shake vp: and sette with snakes
her dredfull flocke to see
Lette nowe Megæra bryng to sygbt:
and with her mournefull hande
for burnyng roage bryng out of hell
a huge and direfull brande.
Doo this, require you vengeance due,
and paynes of hell his spoyle,
Stryke through his breaste: let fiercer flame
within his bosome boyle,
Then whiche in Aetna fornace beates
so furiously to see.
That madde of mynde and wittes may
Alcides dryuen bee

Magno furore percitus, nobis prius
Insaniendum est. Iuno cur nondum furit?
Me, me sorores mente deiectam mea
Versate primam, facere si quidquam apparo
Dignum nouerca: iam odia mutentur mea.
Natos (reuersus) videat incolumes, precor,
Manuq; fortis redeat: inueni diem,
Inuisa quo nos Herculis virtus iuuet.
Me pariter, & se vincat, & cupiat mori
Ab inferis reuersus. hîc profit mihi,
Ioue esse genitum: stabo, & vt certo exeant
Emissa nerno tela, librabo manum:
Regam furentis arma, pugnanti Herculi
Tandem fauebo. scelere perfecto licet

With fury great through pearced quight,
my selfe must fyrst of all
Be madde. Wherfore dothe Juno yet
not in to ragyng fall?
Yee, mee, ye Furies, systers three
throwne quight out of my wyt
Tosse fyrst, yf any thyng to doo
I doo endeuour yet
For stepdame meete: let now my hates
be turnde an other way.
Let hym (returnde) his babes beholde
in safetie, I you praye,
And strong of hande come home: I haue
nowe found the day at length,
In whiche may greatly me auayle
the hated Hercles strengthe.
Bothe me, and eke hym selfe let hym
subdue, and wyshe to dye
Returnde from hell. yea let it here
be my commoditye,
That he of Joue begotten is:
here present wyll I stande,
And that his shafts goe streight from bowe,
I wyll directe his hande:
The mad mans weapons wyll I guyde,
Euen Hercles fyghtyng lo
At length Ile ayde. This gylt once doone
then leefull is that so

Admittat illas genitor in cœlum manus.

Chorus.

Anapæſtici et vltimus Iambicus.

IAm rara micant ſydera prono
Languida mundo, nox victa, vagos
Contrahit ignes, luce renata.
Cogit nitidum Phoſphoros agmen.
Signum celſi glaciale poli,
Septem ſtellis Arcades vrſæ,
Lucem verſo temone vocant.
Iam cæruleis euectus equis
Titan, ſummum proſpicit Oethan.
Iam Cadmæis inclyta baccis
Aſperſa die dumeta rubent,
Phœbiq; fugit reditura ſoror.
Labor exoritur durus, & omneis
Agitat curas, aperitq; domos
Paſtor, gelida cana pruina
Grege dimiſso pabula carpit.
Ludit prato liber aperto,
Nondum rupta fronte iuuencus.
Vacuæ reperant vbera matres.
Errat curſu leuis incerto,
Molli petulans hœdus in herba.
Pendet ſummo ſtridula ramo,
Pinnaſq; nouo tradere Soli
Geſtit, querulos inter nidos

His father may admytte to skyes
thole gyltie handes of his.

Chorus.

The fadig stars now shine but seeld in sight
in stippe skye, night ouercome with day,
Plucks i her fires, while spr̄ōg again is light
ẏ dai star draws ẏ clere sō beams their way.
The ycye sygns of haughty poale agayne,
with seuē starrs markt ẏ beares of Arcady,
Do call the light with ouerturned wayne.
with marble hors now drawn his way to hy
Doth Titan toppe of Detha ouerspred.
the bushes bright that now with beries bee
Of Thebes strewd, by day do blush full red.
and to returne dothe Phœbus syster flee.
Now labor hard begyns, and euery kynde
of cares it stirrs, the shepeherd doth vnfolde
His flocks vnpēd, do grase their fode to finde
& nipps ẏ grasse, with hoary frost ful colde.
At will dothe play in open medowe fayre,
ẏ calfe, whose brow did dam yet neuer teare
The empty kyne their vdders doo repayre.
& light with course vacertayn, here & there,
In grasse full soft the wanton kid he flyngs.
in top of bow doth sit with chaunteyng song,
And to the son new rose to sprede her wyngs
bestirrs herself, her mournfull neats amōg

Thracia pellex:turbaq; circùm
Confusa sonat,murmure misto
Testata diem.carbasa ventis
Credit dubius nauita vitæ,
Laxos aura complente sinus.
Hic exesis pendens scopulis,
Aut deceptos instruit hamos,
Aut suspensus spectat pressa
Præmia dextra.
Sentit tremulum linea piscem.
Hæc,innocuæ quibus est vitæ
Tranquilla quies,& læta suo,
Paruoq;,domus,spes & in agris.
Turbine magno spes sollicitæ
Vrbibus errant,trepidiq; metus.
Ille superbos aditus regum,
Duraſq; fores expers somni
Colit, ac nullo fine beatus
Componit opes,gazis inhians,
Et congesto pauper in auro est.
Illum populi fauor(attonitum,)
Fluctuq; magis mobile vulgus,
Aura tumidum tollit inani.
Hic clamosi rabiosa fori
Iurgia vendens improbus,iras
Et verba locat.nouit paucos
Secura quies,qui velocis
Memores æui.tempora nunquam

The nightingale: & doth with birdes about
confuse resound, with murmure myxed rise
To witnes day. his sailes to wynds sette out
the shipman doth cõmit in doute of lyfe,
While gale of wid ẏ slack sails fils ful strait
he leanyng ouer hollowe rocks dothe lye,
And eyther his beegiled hookes dothe bayte,
or els beholds and feeles the pray from hye
with payled hande.
The trẽblyng fishe he feeles with lyne extẽt.
this hope to them to whom of hurtlesse life,
Is quiet rest, and with his owne content,
and lytle, house, suche hope in fieldes is rife.
The troublus hopes w rollig whirlwid gret
& dredful feares, their wates in cities kepe.
He proude repaire to prince in regall seate,
& harde court gates without the rest of slepe
Esteemes, and endles happynes to holde
doth gather goods, for treasure gaping more,
And is full poore amyd his heaped golde.
the peoples fauour him (astonied sore)
And cõmons more vnconstant then the sea,
with blast of vain reneun lifts vp ful proud.
He selling at the braulyng barre his plea,
full wicked, setts his yres & scolldyng lowde
And woords to sale. a fewe hath known of al
the careles rest, who mindful how doth flitte
Swyft age away, the tyme that neuer shall
returne again do hold. while fates permitte,

Viuite læti: properat cursu
Vita citato, volucriq; die
Rota præcipitis vertitur anni.
Duræ peragunt pensa sorores,
Nec sua retro fila reuoluunt.
At gens hominū fertur rapidis
Obuia fatis incerta sui.
Stygias vltro quærimus vndas.
Nimium Alcide pectore forti
Properas mœstos visere manes.
Certo veniunt ordine Parcæ,
Nulli iusso cessare licet,
Nulli scriptum proferre diem.
Recipit populos vrna citatos.
Alium multis gloria terris
Tradat, & omnes fama p vrbes
Garrula laudet, cœloq; parem
Tollat, & astris: alius curru
Sublimis eat: me mea tellus
Lare se creto, tutoq; tegat.
Venit ad pigros cana senectus,
Humiliq; loco, sed certa, sedet
Sordida paruæ fortuna domus:
Alte virtus animosa cadit.
Sed mœsta venit crine soluto
Megara, paruū comitata gregem,
Tarduſq; senio gra ditur Alcidæ parens.

Actus

At quiet lyue: the life ful quickly glides
with hastned course, & with the winged day
The whele is turnd of yere ẏ hedlōg llides.
the sisters hard performe their tasks alway,
Nor mai againvntwist their threds ons spō
yet mankynde lo vnsure what waye to take
To mete the greedy destenies dothe ron,
and willyngly we seeke the Stygian lake.
To muche Alcides thou with stomack stout
the sory sprights of hell dooste haste to see.
with course prefixt the fates ar broght about
to none once warnd to come, may respyte be
To none to passe their once appointed day.
the tombe all people calde by death doth hide
Let glory him by many landes away
display, & fame throughout all cities wide
Full bablyng praise, & euē with skye to stād
auaunce, & starrs: let hym in chariot bright
Full haughty goe: let me my natiue land
in safe & secret house kepe close frō sight.
To restful men hoare age by cours doth fal,
and lowe in place, yet safe, & sure doth lye
The poore and base estate of cottage small:
the prowder pōpe of mynd doth fall frō hye.
But sad here comes with losed locks of hear
loe Megara, with lyttle cumpanye,
And slow by age draws Hercles father nere

The

ACTVS SECVNDVS

Megara:
Trimetri Iambici.

O MAGNE Olympi rector, & mundi arbiter,
Iam ſtatue tandem grauibus ærumnis modum,
Finemq; cladi. nulla lux vnquam mihi
Secura fulſit, finis alterius mali
Gradus eſt futuri: protinus reduci nouus
Paratur hoſtis, ante quàm lætam domum
Contingat, aliud iuſſus ad bellum meat:
Nec vlla requies, tempus aut vllum datur,
Niſi dum iubetur: ſequitur apprime ſtatim
Infeſta Iuno. nunquid immunis fuit
Infantis ætas? monſtra ſuperauit prius,
Quàm noſſe poſſet. gemina criſtati caput

Hercul.fur.of Seneca.

THE SECONDE ACTE.

Megara.

O Guyder great of heauen, and of
the woꝛlde o iudge full hye,
Yet now at length apoynt a meane
of carefull myſerye,
And ende of our calamitie.
to me yet neuer daye
Yath careleſſe ſhynde, the ende of one
affliction paſſe awaye
Begynnyng of an other is:
an other ennemye
Is foꝛthwith fownde, beſoꝛe that he
his ioyfull victoꝛye
Retourne vnto, an other fyght
he taketh by behеſt:
Noꝛ any reſpite gyuen vs
to hym noꝛ quiet reſt,
But whyle that he commaunded is:
ſtrayght hym purſueth ſhee
The hateſull Juno. Was yet once
from toyle and labour free
His infantes agе: the monſters lo
he vanquyſht hathe and ſlayne,
Beſoꝛe he knew what monſters ment.
The ſkaled ſerpents twayne

Theyꝛ

Angues ferebant ora, quos contra obuius
Reptauit infans, igneos serpentium
Oculos remisso pectore, ac placido intuens,
Arctos serenis vultibus nodos tulit:
Et tumida tenera guttura elidens manu,
Præluſit Hydræ. Mænali pernix fera,
Multo decorum præferens auro caput,
Deprensa cursu est. Maximus Nemeæ timor
Gemuit lacertis pressus Herculeis Leo.
Quid stabula memorē dira Bistonii gregis?
Suisq; regem pabulum armentis datum?
Solitumq; densis hispidum Erymanthi iugis,
Arcadica quatere nemora Mænalium suem?
Taurumq; centum non leuem populis metū?

Inter

Theyr double neckes drew on toward hym,
agaynst the whyche to ryse,
The infant crepte to meete with them,
the serpentes glyttryng eyes
Lyke fyre, with quiet careleſſe breſt
he lookyng faſt vppon,
With coũtnance cleere, hard wrefted knots
of them he caught anon:
And ſtranglyng then the ſwellyng throates
of them with tender hande,
To Hydraparelude made. the beaſte
ſo ſwyfte of Nemale lande,
That with muche golde bare vp full bryght
his beautified heade,
Is caught in courſe. of Nemey woode
lykewyſe the greateſt dreade
The lyon preſt with Hercles armes
hath roarde with dreadfull crye.
What ſhoulde I ſpeake of ſtables dyre
of ſteedes of Byſtonye?
Or kyng caſte out hym ſelfe for foode
his horſes fierce to fyll?
And briſtled beaſt in thicke topps woont
of Erymanthus hyll,
The boare of Nemalye, the woodds
of Arcady to ſhake?
And bull that dyd no lyttle dreade
to hundred peoples make?

Among

Inter remotos gentis Heſperiæ greges,
Paſtor triformis littoris Carteſii
Peremptus, acta eſt præda ab occaſu vltimo,
Notum Citharon pauit Oceano pecus.
Penetrare iuſſus ſolis æſtiui plagas,
Et aduſta medius regna quæ torret dies,
Vtrinq; montes ſoluit abrupto obice,
Etiam ruenti fecit Oceano viam.
Poſthæc adortus nemoris opulenti domos,
Aurifera vigilis ſpolia ſerpentis tulit.
Quid ſæua Lernæ monſtra, numeroſum malū?
Non igne demum vicit, & docuit mori?
Solitaſq; pennis condere obductis diem,
Petiit ab ipſis nubibus Stymphalidas.

Non

Among the flocks of Helper lande
that hens farre diſtant bee,
The ſhepherde of Carteſian coaſt
of tryple ſhape to ſee
Is ſlayne, and dryuen is the praye
from fartheſt parte of weaſte,
Citharon quakte when by hym paſt
to ſea the well knowne beaſt.
He beeyng byd to make by coaſtes
of ſommer ſonne his waye,
And parched landes whche ſore with heate
dooth boyle the myddell daye,
The mountayns brake on eyther ſyde
and rampiers all vndoon,
Euen vnto ſwyfte and ragyng ſea
hathe made a waye to roon.
Then entryng in of plenteous wood
the pleaſant gardeyns gaye,
The wakyng dragons golden ſpoyles
with hym he brought awaye.
The Lerna monſters numerous yll
what neede to tell haue I:
Hath he not hym with fyre at lengthe
ſubdewde, and taught to dye:
And which were woont with wyngs abrode
to hyde the daye from ſyght,
Euen from the cloudes he ſought and draue
the Stymphale byrdes to flyght.

Nor

Non vicit illum cœlibis ſemper tori
Regina gentis vidua Thermodoontiæ.
Nec ad omne clarum facinus audaces manus
Stabuli fugauit turpis Augiæ labor.
Quid iſta proſunt? orbe defenſo caret.
Sen ſere terræ pacis authorem ſuæ
Abeſſe tetris: proſperum, ac fœlix ſcelus
Virtus vocatur, ſontibus parent boni.
Ius eſt in armis, opprimit leges timor.
Ante ora vidi noſtra truculenta manu
Gnatos paterni cadere regni vindices,
Ipſumq; Cadmi nobilis ſtirpem vltimam
Occidere: vidi regium capitis decus
Cum capite raptum. quis ſatis Thebas fleat?

Not bym subdewde who euer lyes
in bedde vnmatcht at nyght
The wyddowe queene of them that toke
to Thermodont their flyght.
Nor handes that well durst enterpryse
his noble treuayles all
The fylthy labour made to shrynke
of foule Augias hall.
What bayle all these? he wants the worlde
whyche ofte defended he.
And th'erthe well knowes the woorker of
his quietnes to be
Away from earthe: the prosperous gylt
that beareth happy swaye,
Is vertue callde, and now the good
to wycked doo obaye.
The ryght doth stande in myght of armes,
feare treadeth downe the lawe.
Before my face with cruell hande
euen presently I sawe
Reuengers of theyr fathers reygne
the sonnes with swoorde downe cast,
And of the noble Cadmus eke
hymselfe the offspryng last
Then slayne: I sawe his regall crowne
at once from hym awaye
With head byreft. Who Thebes alas
enough bewayle nowe maye?

Ferax deorum terra, quem dominum tremit?
E cuius aruis, êq́; fœcundo ſinu,
Stricto iuuentus orta cum ferro ſtetit:
Cuiuſq; muros natus Amphion Ioue,
Struxit canoro ſaxa modulatu trahens:
In cuius vrbem non ſemel diuûm parens
Cœlo relicto venit. hæc quæ cœlites
Recepit, & quæ fecit, & (fas ſit loqui)
Fortaſſe faciet, ſordido premitur iugo.
Cadmæa proles, ciuis atq; Amphionis,
Quo decidiſtis? tremitis ignauum exulem,
Suis carentem finibus, noſtris grauem?
Qui ſcelera terra, quiq; perſequitur mari,
Ac ſæua iuſta ſceptra confregit manu,

Nunc

The fertile lande of goodes, what lorde
nowe quakes it for to knowe?
Out of the fieldes of whiche sometyme,
and fruitefull bosome lowe,
The youth vpsprong with sworde in hand
prepard to battell stoode:
And walls of whiche Amphion one
of myghty Ioue his broode,
Hath buylt with sowndyng melody
in drawyng to the stones:
To towne of whome the parent cheefe
of Goodes not onely ones
Heauen beyng left hath come, this lande
that goddes aboue alway
Receyude, & whiche hath made them goddes,
and (leefull beete to say)
Perhapps shall make, with lothsome yoake
of bondage is preste downe.
O Cadmus stocke, and citezens
of olde Amphions towne,
Wherto are ye nowe fallne? dreade ye
a cowardly erul thus,
His coastes to dwell in lacking, and
to ours iniurious?
Who through the worlde pursues the gyltes
and wrong by sea and lande,
And cruell sceptres broken hath
with iuste and ryghtfull hande,

Nunc ſeruit abſens, fertq; quæ ferri vetat:
Tenetq; Thebas exul Herculeas Lycus.
Sed non tenebit: aderit, & pœnas petet,
Subituſq; ad aſtra emerget: inueniet viam,
Aut faciet. adſis ſoſpes, & remees tuis:
Tandemq; venias victor ad victam domum.
Emerge coniux, atq; depulſas manu
Abrumpe tenebras, nulla ſi vetito via,
Iterq; clauſum eſt, orbe diducto redi.
Et quicquid atra nocte poſſeſſum latet,
Emitte recum. diruptis qualis iugis
Præceps citato flumini quærens iter
Quondam ſtetiſti, ſciſſa cum vaſto impetu
Patuere Tempe: pectore impulſus tuo

Huc

Nowe absent serues, and what he easde
in other doothe suskayne:
And nowe doth bannyght Lycus holde
of Hercles Thebes the rayne.
Yet shall he not: he shall come home,
And hym with vengeaunce quight,
And sodayne ryse to starres: he wyll
Soone fynde the waye to lyght,
Or make it ells. returne thou sake,
repayre to thyne in haste:
And conquerour to conquerde houls
yet come agayne at lasse.
Ryse vp my spouse, and darkenesse deepe
repellde of helly shade
Breake vp with hande, yt no way may
for thee kept backe bee made,
And passage be shette vp, returns
with worlde vprent by myght.
And what soeuer lythe pollest
byneathe in darkest nyght,
Sende out with thee. as when the topps
of haughty hylles vndoon
A hedlong passage makyng through
for hasty floude to roon
Thou somtyme stoodst, whā w great might
of thyne asunder broake
The Temppe woods wyde open laye:
and beaten with thy stroake

Huc mons, & illuc cecidit: & rupto aggere,
Noua cucurrit Theſſalus torrens via.
Talis parentes, liberos, patriam petens,
Erumpe, rerum terminos tecum afferens,
Et quicquid auida tot per annorum gradus
Abſcondit ætas, redde, & oblitos ſui,
Lucísq; pauidos ante te populos age.
Indigna te ſunt ſpolia, ſi tantum refers
Quantum imperatũ eſt. magna, ſed nimiũ lo-
(quor,
Ignara noſtræ ſortis. vnde illum mihi,
Quo te tuámq; dextram amplectar diem
Reditúsq; lentos, nec mei memores, querar?
Tibi ô deorum ductor, indomiti ferent
Centena tauri colla: tibi frugum parens

Secre-

Of more renowne. MEG. what wretches do
moste chiefly wyshe of all,
They soone beleue. AM Nay what thei feare
to muche least it may fall,
They thynke it neuer may bee shoonde,
nor rydde by remedy.
MEG. Beleefe is ready still to dreade
the woorser myserye.
Depe drownde, & whelmde, & farthermore
with all the worlde full lowe
Oppressed downe, what ways hath he
to lyght agayne to goe?
AM. What way I pray you had he then
when through the burnyng coste,
And tumblyng after maner of
the troubled sea vp toste
He went by sands: and freate that twyse
with ebbe away doothe slyppe,
And twyse vpflowe: and when alone
with his forsaken shyppe,
Fast caught he stucke in shallowe foordes
of shelfye Syrtes sande,
And (nowe his shyppe on grounde) dyd passe
through seas a foote to lande?
MEG. Iniurious fortune vertue most
of men moste stoute and strong
Doothe seldome spare: no man alyue
Hymselfe in safetie long

Secreta reddam ſacra: tibi multa fide
Longas Eleuſi tacita iactabo faces.
Tum reſtitutas fratribus rebor meis
Animas, & ipſum regna moderantem ſua
Florere patrem. ſiqua te maior tenet
Clauſum poteſtas, ſequimur: aut omnes tuo
Defende reditu ſoſpes, aut omnes trahe.
Trahes, nec vllus eriget fractos deus.

AMPHITRYON.

Megara.

Trimetri Iambici.

O Socia noſtri ſanguinis, caſta fide
Seruans torũ, natoſq; magnanimi Herculis,
Meliora mente concipe, atq; animum excita:
Aderit profecto, qualis ex omni ſolet

Ile gyue the secret sacrifyce:
to thee with muche fayth loe
Long fyre brandes at Eleusis towne
full sylent wyll I throe.
Then to my brethern shall I thynke
to bee resstoarde agayne
Theyr sowles, and eke hymselfe alyue
and guydyng of his rayne
My father for to flourysshe yet.
yf any greater myght
Do kepe thes shette, we followe thee:
with thy returne to syght
Defende vs all, or els to hell
drawe downe vs all to thee.
Thou shalt vs drawe, no god shall rayse
vs vp that broken bee.

AMPHITRYON.

MEGARA.

O Faythfull fellowe of our blonde,
with chaste true faythfulnes
The bridebed keeping, and the sonns
of haughty Hercules,
Concepue in mynde some better thyngs,
and take good harte to thee:
He wyll come home, as after all
his labours woonteth hee,

Labore, maior. ME. Quod nimis miseri volũt
Hoc facilè credunt. A. Imò quod metuũt ni-
(mis,
Nunq̃ amoueri posse, nec tolli putant.
MEG. Prona est timori semper in peius fides.
Demersus, ac defossus, & toto insuper
Oppressus orbe, quam viã ad superos habet?
AM. Quã tunc habebat, cum per arentem pla
(gam,
Et fluctuantes more turbati maris
Abiit arenas: bísq; discedens fretum,
Et bis recurrens: cúmq; deserta rate,
Deprensus hæsit Syrtium breuibus vadis,
Et (puppe fixa) maria superauit pedes?
ME. Iniqua raro maximis virtutibus
Fortuna parcit: nemo se tuto diu

Peri

The mownt, now here, now ther fel downe
and rampier rente of staye,
The ragyng brooke of Thessaly
dyd roon a newe fownde waye.
Thy parentes so, thy soons, thy lande
repayryng home to see,
Breake out, and lowest bonde of thyngs
out bryngyng thens with thee,
And what soeuer greedy age
in all these long yeares race
Hath hyd, shewe foorth, & ghosts that haue
forgotte theyr former case,
And people vp before thee dryue
that fearefull are of lyght.
Unworthy spoyles for thee they are,
yf thou but bryng to syght
What bydden is. great things, but farre
to muche I speake for me,
Unwotyng of myne owne estate.
when shall I happe to see,
The day when thee, and thy ryght hande,
I maye embrace agayne,
And slowe returnes, nor yet of me
once myndefull, may complayne &
To thee for this O guyde of godds,
vntamed bulls shall bryng
Theyr hundred neckes: to thee O queene
of frutes on earthe that spryng

Periculis offerre tam crebris potest.

Quem sæpe transit casus, aliquando inuenit.

Sed ecce sæuus ac minas vultu gerens,

Et qualis animo est, talis incessu venit,

Aliena dextra sceptra concutiens Lycus,

Vrbis regens opulenta Thebanæ loca,

Et omne quicquid vberi cingit solo

Obliqua Phocis, quicquid Ismenus rigat,

Quicquid Cithæron vertice excelso videt,

Et bina findens Isthmos exilis freta.

LYCVS. MEGARA. AMPHITRYON.

Trimetri Iambici.

NOn vetera patriæ iura possideo domus

Ignauus hæres, nobiles non sunt mihi

To perils great and daungers may
so often tymes out casse.
Whome chaunce doothe often ouerslippe,
the same yt fyndes at lasse.
But cruell loe, and greuous threats
euen bearyng in his face,
And suche as he of stomacke ys,
doothe come euen suche of pace,
Prowde Lycus who the sceptors shakes
in hande of other kyng,
The plentuous places of the towne
of Thebes gouernyng,
And euery thyng aboute the whyche
with fertyle soyle dooth goe
Sloape Phocis, and what euer doothe
Ismenus ouerfloe,
What euer thyng Cithæron seethe
with haughty toppe and hye,
And slender Isthmos yle, the whyche
betweene two seas dooth lye.

Lycus, Megara, Amphitryon.

NOt I of natiue countrey bowres
Possesse the auncient ryght
Unworthy heyres, nor yet to me
are noble men of myght,

The

Hercul.fur.Senecæ.

Aui,nec altis inclytum titulis genus,
Sed clara virtus: qui genus iactat ſuum,
Aliena laudat. Rapta ſed trepida manu
Sceptra obtinentur: omnis in ferro eſt ſalus.
Quod ciuibus tenere te inuitis ſcias,
Strictus tuetur enſis. alieno in loco
Haud ſtabile regnū eſt. vna ſed noſtras poteſt
Fundare vires, iuncta regali face,
Thalamisq; Megara: ducet é genere inclyto
Nouitas colorem noſtra. non equidem reor
Fore vt recuſet, ac meos ſpernat toros.
Quòd ſi impotenti pertinax animo abnuet,
Stat tollere omnem penitus Herculeā domū.
Inuidia faſtum, ac ſermo popularis premet.

Ars

The grandfathers, nor stocke renowmde
with titles hye: of name,
But noble vertue: who so boastes
of kynred whence he came,
Of others vertue makes his bawnte.
but gotte with fearefull hande
My sceptors are obtaynde: in swoorde
dothe all my safety stande.
What thee thou wottst agaynst the wyll
of cytesyns to get,
The brygbt drawne swoorde must it defende.
in forayne countrey set
No stable kyngdome is. But one
my pompe and princely mygbt
May ratifye, once toynde to me
with regall torche full brygbt,
And chambers Megara: of stocke
of suche nobilitee
Let vpstarte state of myne take shape.
I doo not thynke that thee
Refuse it wyll, or in the bedde
with me despyse to lye.
But yf with proude vnbrydled mynde
thee stubberne doo denye,
Then cuygbt I purpose to destroye
the house of Hercules.
The hate of men wyll then my pryde,
and peoples speache oppres.

Theseus

Ars prima regni est posse te inuidiam pati.
Tentemus igitur, sors dedit nobis locum.
Nanq; ipsa tristis vestis obtentu caput
Velata iuxta præsides astat deos,
Lateriq; adhæret verus Alcidæ sator.
ME. Quid nam iste nostri generis exitium, ac (lues,
Noui parat? quid tentat? LY. ô clarum trahens
Astirpe nomen regia, facilis mea
Parumper aure verba patienti excipe.
Si æterna semper odia mortales agant,
Nec cœptus vnquam cedat ex animis furor,
Sed arma fœlix teneat, infœlix paret,
Nihil relinquent bella: tum vastis ager
Squalebit aruis, subdita rectis face

Altus

Chiefe knacke of kyngdome is to beare
Thy subiects hates eche one.
Lets proue her then, chaunce gyuen hath
To vs a place alone.
For she her head in folde of hayle
full sadde and wofully
Enwrapt, the gods that are her guydes
for succour stands fast by,
And at the syde of her doothe leane
Alcides father trewe.
MEG. What thyng dothe this destroier of
our flocke, agayne a newe
Prepare? what procureth he? LY. O queene
That name renowned hye
And title takste of regall stocke,
full gentle and easyly
A lyttle while receyue and heare
my woords with patient eare.
If alwayes men eternall hates
shoulde one to th'other beare,
And rage beegoon, out of the harte
shoulde neuer fall awaye,
But th'happy still shoulde armour holde
th'unhappys styll obaye,
Then shall the battayles nothyng leaue:
with wyde fieldes then the lande
Shall lye vntylde, with vnderlayde
to houlsen fyzy brande

Altus ſepultas obruet gentes cinis:
Pacem reduci velle victori expedit:
Victo neceſſe eſt.particeps regni veni:
Sociemus animos,pignus hoc fidei cape:
Contínge dextram.quid truci vultu fles?
ME.Egóne vt parentis ſanguine aſperſam mea
(num,
Fratrumq; gemina cæde contingam? prius
Extinguet ortus,referet occaſus diem:
Pax ante fida niuibus & flammis erit,
Et Scilla Siculum iunget Auſonio larus,
Priuſq; multo,vicibus alternis fugax
Euripus,vnda ſtabit Euboica piger:
Patrem abſtuliſti,regna,germanos,larem,
Patriam:quid vltra eſt?vna res ſupereſt mihi,

Fratre,

Then alhes deepe shall ouerwhelme
the buried people all.
Expedient is to conquerour
to wyshe that peace befall:
To conquerde needefull. partener of
the kyngdome come to me:
Letts ioyn our mynds, take here this pledge
of faythe and truthe to thee:
My ryght hand touche. Why whishteſt thou
with cruell face and moode:
MEG. Shoulde I abyde, that I the hande
sprinkte with my fathers bloode,
Shoulde touche and double death enbrewde
of bothe my bretherne? naye
Fyrſt shall sonne ryse extinguishe quyght,
And weste shall bryng the daye:
Fyrſt faithfull peace betweene the snowes
and fyres there shall bee tryde,
And Scylla shall t'Ausonius fyrſte
ioyne his Sicilyan syde,
And fyrſt, the fleeyng flouds that with
swyfte turnes of course daothe flowe
Euripus, with Euboik waue
shall stand full styll and flowe.
My father th'empire, brethern, howſe,
Thou haſte me cleare berefte
My countreys: what may bee more?
one thyng to me is lefte,

Fratre, ac parente charior, regno ac lare,
Odium tui: quod esse cum populo mihi
Commune doleo: pars quota ex isto mea est?
Dominare tumidus, spiritus altos gere:
Sequitur superbos vltor à tergo Deus.
Thebana noui regna. Quid matres loquar,
Passas, & ausas scelera? quid geminum nefas?
Mistumq; nomen coniugis, nati & patris?
Quid bina fratrũ castra? quid totidem rogos?
Riget superba Tantalis luctu parens,
Mœstusq; Phrygio manat in Sipylo lapis.
Quin ipse toruum surrigens crista caput,
Illyrica Cadmus regna permensus fuga,
Longas reliquit corporis tracti notas.

Then brother, father, kyngdome, house,
that deerer is to me
The hate of thee: the whyche to me
with people for to bee
In commune, woe I am: howe greate
ys myne allonely parte:
Rule on full proude, beare vp full hye
thy sprights and haughty harte:
Yet god the prowde behynde theyr backes
dothe followe them to wreake.
I knowe the Thebane kyngdomes. What
shoulde I the mothers speake,
Bothe suffryng, and aduentryng gylts:
what double myschefe bonne:
And myxed name of spouse at once,
of father and of sonne:
What brethrens double tents: or what
as many roages also:
The mother prowde of Tantalls broode
congealde in mournyng lo,
And sory stone yet flowes with teares
in Phrygian Sipylye.
Hymselfe lykewyse erectyng vp
his shaled head awrye,
Euen Cadmus measuryng throughout
th' Illyrian landes in flyght,
Behynde hym lefte of body drawne
long flymye marks in syght.

Hæc te manent exempla: dominare vt lubet,

Dum ſolita regni fata te noſtri vocent.

LY. Agedum, efferatas rabida voces amoue:

Et diſce regum imperia ab Alcide pati.

Ego rapta quamuis ſceptra victrici geram

Dextra, regamq́; cuncta ſine legum metu

Quas arma vincunt, pauca pro cauſa loquar

Noſtra: cruento cecidit in bello pater:

Cecidere fratres: arma non ſeruant modum.

Nec temperari facile, nec reprimi poteſt

Stricti enſis ira: bella delectat cruor.

Sed ille regno pro ſuo, nos improba

Cupidine acti: quæritur belli exitus,

Non cauſa, ſed nunc pereat omnis memoria.

All these examples wayte for thee:
rule thou as lykes thy wyll,
Whyle thee our kyngdoms woonted fates
doo call and ofte hapte yll.
LY. Goe to, these fierce and furious woords
thou woman madde refrayne:
And imperies of princes learne
of Hercles to sustayne.
Though I the sceptors gotten by
the force of warre doo beare
In conquryng hande, and all doo rule
without the lawe his feare
Whiche armes subdue, a fewe woords yet
to thee nowe speake I shall
For this my cause: thy father dyd
in blouddy battayle fall:
Thy bretherne fell: the weapons keepe
no measurable staye.
For neyther easyly tempred bee,
nor yet represséd maye
The drawne swoordes yre: the battels doth
the blonde delyght out shed.
But he yet for his kyngdoome fought,
was all togyther led
With wycked lust: yet th'ende of warre
ys nowe complayned loe,
And not the cawse. but nowe let all
remembrance therof goe:

Cum victor arma posuit, & victum decet
Deponere odia. non vt inflexo genu
Regnãtem adores, petimus: hoc ipsum placet,
Animo ruinas quod capis magno tuas.
Es rege coniux digna, sociemus toros.
M. Gelidus per artus vadit exangues tremor.
Quod facinus aures pepulit? haud equidē hor (rui,
Cum (pace rupta) bellicus muros fragor
Circunsonaret, pertuli intrepide omnia,
Thalamos tremisco: capta nunc videor mihi.
Grauent catenæ corpus, & longa fame
Mors protrahatur lenta, non vincet fidem
Vis vlla nostram: moriar Alcide tua.
Ly. Animosne mersus inferis coniux facit?

When conquerour hath weapons left,
. the conquerds parte shoulde bee
To leaue his hates. Not I that thou
with lowly bended knee
Ye raignyng worshyp shouldst, require:
Euen this dooth me delight,
That thou thy myseries doost beare
with mynde so stoute vpright.
Thou for a kyng a spouse arte meete,
letts ioyne our bedds anone.
MEG. A trēbling cold doth run throughout
my bloudlesse lyms eche one.
What heinous thing comes to myne eares:
I fearde not then at all,
When (all peace broake) the noyse of warrs
dyd by the citie wall
Resounde about, I bare all that
vnfearefully to see,
I feare the weddyng chambers: nowe
I captyue seeme to mee.
Let heauy chaynes my body greeue,
and eke with hunger long
Let lyngryng death be slowly brought,
yet shall no force full strong
My truthe subdue: for euen thyne owne
Alcides wyll I dye.
LY. Doth then thy husband drowned in hell
geue thee this stomacke hye:

Meg.

ME. Inferna tetigit, posset vt supera assequi.

LY. Telluris illum pondus immensæ premit.

ME. Nullo premetur onere, qui cœlum tulit.

Ly. Cogêre. Me. Cogi qui potest, nescit mori.

Ly. Effare, thalamis quod nouis potius parem
Regale munus? M. Aut tuã mortem, aut meã.

Ly. Morière demens. M. Coniugi occurram meo.

Ly. Sceptroq; nostro potior est famulus tibi?

ME. Quot iste famulus tradidit reges neci?

Ly. Cur ergo regi seruit, & patitur iugum?

ME. Imperia dura tolle, quid virtus erit?

Ly. Obiici feris, monstrisq; virtutem putas?

Me. Virtutis est, domare, quæ cuncti pauent.

Ly. Tenebræ loquentem magna tartareæ præmunt.

MEG. The hells alowe he toucht, that he
The heyght agayne myght get.
LY. The heauy payse oppresseth hym
Of all the earthe full great.
MEG. He with no burdeyn shall be presst,
that heauen it selfe sustaynde.
LY. Thou shalt be korst. ME. He wots not how
to dye, that is constraynde.
LY. Speake, what may rather I prepare
then weddyng newe for thee
Woze royall gyft? MEG. Thyne owne death
or ells the death of mee. (els,
LY. Then shalt mad woman dye. MEG. I shal
then to my husbande go.
LY. Woze then my sceptors is to thee
a seruant loued so?
MEG. Howe many hath this seruant slayne
of kyngs with handye stroake?
LY. Why dothe he yet a kyng then serue,
and styll sustayne his yoake?
MEG. Take once away the harde behests,
whats vertue then at lasse?
LY. Dooste thou it vertue counte, to bee
to beasts, and monsters easte?
MEG. Tis vertues part, to tame the thyngs,
that all men quake to knowe.
LY. Hym great thyngs braggyng, darknes
of tartare presse full lowe. (derpe

MEG.

MEG.Non eſt ad aſtra mollis è terris via,

L.Quo patre genitus,cœlitũ penetrat domos?

AM.Miſeranda coniux Herculis magni, ſile.

Partes meæ hæ ſunt,reddere Alcidæ patrem,

Genuſq; verum.poſt totingentis viri

Memoranda facta,poſtq; pacatum manu

Quodcunq; Titan ortus,& labens videt,

Poſt monſtra tot perdomita, poſt Phlegram (impio

Sparſam cruore,poſtq; defenſos Deos,

Nondum liquet de patre? mentimur Iouem?

Iunonis odio crede.Ly.Quid violas Iouem?

Mortale cœlo non poteſt iungi genus.

AM. Communis iſta pluribus cauſa eſt deis.

L.Famuline fuerant antequàm fierent dei?

Am.

ME. There neuer may frō growne to ſtars
an eaſye paſſage be.
LY. Of whom begot, the houſen then
of godds thzough peaceth he:
AM. O wzetched wyfe of Hercles great,
thy woozds a whyle now ſpare.
Wy parte it is, the father of
Alcides to declare,
And his true ſtocke. yet after all
of man ſo ſtoute as this
So famous deedes, and after all
Appeaſde with hande of his
What euer Titan tyſen vp,
Doothe ſee, ozels at fall,
And after all theſe monſters taemde,
and Phlegrey ſpzynkled all
With wycked bloude, and after godds
defended all on hye,
Is not his father yet well knowne:
Oz Joue doo we beelye:
Beleeue it yet by Junoes hate.
LY. why dooſte thou ſclawnder Joue:
No mozrtall kynred euer maye
bee myrte with heauen aboue.
AM. To many of the godds in ſkyes
is this a common trade.
LY. But were they euer ſeruantes yet,
befoze they godds were made:

AM.

AM. Pastor Pheræos Delius pauit greges.

Ly. Sed non per omnes exul errauit plagas.

A. Quem profuga terræ mater erranti edidit.

L. Nõ mõstra, sæuas Phœbus aut timuit feras.

A. Primus sagittas imbuit Phœbi Draco.

Quàm grauia paruus tulerit, ignoras, mala?

E matris vtero fulmine erectus puer,

Mox fulminanti proximus patri stetit.

Quid? qui gubernat astra, qui nubes quatit,

Num latuit infans rupis exesæ specu?

Sollicita tanti pretia natales habent:

Semperq; magno constitit, nasci deum.

L. Quemcunq; miserum videris, hominem (scias.

A. Quemcunq; fortem videris, miserũ neges.

AM. Of Delos yle the shepherde los
the flocks of Pherey fed.
LY. But throughe all coasts he wandred not
abroade as banyshed.
AM. Whome straying mother fyrst brought
in wandryng lande to lyght. (forth
LY. Yet Phœbus dyd no monsters feare,
or beasts of crueil myght.
AM. First dragon with his blood embrewde
the shafts of Phœbus bowe.
Howe greeuous ylls euen yet full yong
he bate, doo yow not knowe?
Frō mothers wombe the babe out throwne
with lyghtnyng flame from hye,
Euen next his lyghtnyng father stoode
forthwith abeue in skye.
What? he hym selfe that guydes the starrs,
and shakes the cloudes at wyll,
Dyd not that infant lurke in denne
of hollowe caued hyll?
The byrthes so great full troublous price
to haue loe allways ought:
And euer to be borne a God,
with coste full greate is bought.
LY. Whome thou a myser seeste, thou mayst
knowe hym a man to bee.
AM. A myser hym denye ye maye,
whome stoute of harte ye see.

Ly.

Ly. Fortem vocemus, cuius ex humeris Leo
Donum puellæ factus, & claua excidit,
Fulsitq; pictum veste Sidonia latus?
Fortem vocemus, cuius horrentes comæ
Maduere nardo? laude qui notas manus
Ad non virilem tympani mouit sonum,
Mitra ferocem barbara frontem premēs?
AM. Non erubescit Bacchus effusos tener
Sparsisse crines, nec manu molli leuem
Vibrasse thyrsum, cum parum forti gradu
Auro decorum syrma barbaricum trahit.
Post multa virtus opera laxari solet.

Ly. Hoc Euriti fatetur euersi domus,
Pecorumq; ritu virginum oppressi greges.

Hoc

Ly. Call we hym stoute, from shoulders hye
of whom the lyon throwne
A gyfte for mayden made, and eke
his clubbe from hande fell downe,
And paynted syde with purple weede
dyd thyne that he dyd weare:
Or may we hym call stoute of harte,
whose staryng lockes of heare
With ointmēt flowde: who hāds renowmde
and knowne by prayses hye
To sownde vnmeete for any man
of tymber dyd applye,
With barbarous mytar cloasyng in
his forhed rownde about:
AM The tender Bacchus dyd not blushe
abroade to haue layde out
His brayded heares, nor yet with hande
full softe the Thyrsus lyght
For to haue shooke, what tyme that he
with pace vnstoute in syght
His long traynde barbarous garmēt drew
with golde full fayre to see.
Styll vertue after many woorkes
is woont releasse to bee.
LY. Of this the house of Curtius
destroyde doothe wytnesse beare,
And virgins flockes that brutyshly
by hym oppressed weare.

Hoc nulla Iuno, nullus Eurystheus iubet.
Ipsius hæc sunt opera. A. Non nosti omnia.
Ipsius opus est cæstibus fractus suis
Eryx, & Eryci iunctus Antéus Libys:
Et qui hospitali cæde manantes foci,
Bibêre iustum sanguinem Busiridis.
Ipsius opus est, vulneri, & ferro obuius
Mortem coactus ante Geryónas pati.
Nec vnus vna Geryon victus manu.
Eris inter istos: qui tamen nullo stupro
Læsere thalamos. Ly. Quod Ioui, hoc regi li-
(cet:
Ioui dedisti coniugem, regi dabis.
Et te magistro non nouum hoc discet nurus,
Etiam viro probante meliorem sequi.

Sin

No Juno dyd commawnde hym this,
Nor none Eurystheus loe.
But these in deede his owne woorks are.
AM. Yet all ye doo not knoe.
His woorke it is with weapons of
his owne hande vanquyshed
Both the Eryr, and to Eryx toynde
Anteus Lybian ded:
And aultars whiche with slaughter of
the straungers flowyng fast,
Busyris well deserued bloode
lykewyse haue droonke at last.
His deede it is, that he that met
the wownde, and swoorde is slayne
Constraynde to suffre deathe before
these other Geryons twayne.
Nor one alonely Geryon dothe
with one hande conquerde lye.
Thow shalt among these be: whych yet
with none adulterye
Haue wedlocke hurte. LY. What is to Joue
to kyng is leefull thyng:
To Joue thou gaufte a wyfe, thou shalt
nowe gene one to a kyng.
And euen of thee shee shall it learne
to bee a thyng not newe,
Her husband euen approuyng it
the better man t'enslewe.

Sin copulari pertinax tædis negat,
Vel ex coacta nobilem partum feram.
M. Vmbræ Creontis, & penates Labdaci,
Et nuptiales impii Oedipodæ faces,
Nunc solita nostro fata coniugio date.
Nunc, nunc cruentæ regis Ægypti nurus,
Adeste multo sanguine infectæ manus:
Deest vna numero Danais, explebo nefas.
L. Coniugia quoniã peruicax nostra abnuis,
Regemq; terres, sceptra quid possint, scies.
Complectere aras, nullus eripiet deus
Te mihi: nec orbe si remolito, queat
Ad supera victor numina Alcides vehi.
Congerite syluas, templa supplicibus suis

Iniecta

But yf she stubberne to be matcht
with me denye it styll,
Then euen by force a noble chylde
Of her beget I wyll.
MEG. O Creons ghosts, and all ye godds
of th'howse of Labdacus,
And weddyng torches blasyng bryght,
of wycked Oedipus,
To this my weddyng geue ye nowe
our woonted dessenies.
Now, now ye bloody daughters all
of Egyptes kyng lykewyse,
Bee here whose hands defyled are
with so muche bloude out spylt:
One daughter lacks of Danaus,
I wyll fyll vp the gylt.
Ly. Because that stubburnely thou doest
refuse my weddyng so,
And fearst a kyng, thou shalt know what
the sceptors nowe maye do.
Enbrace thyne aultars, yet no god
shall euer take away
Thee from my handes: no not although
with worlde vpturned, may
Alcides victor yet agayne
to gods aboue returne.
The woods on heapes togyther cast,
let all their temples burne

Iniecta flagrent: coniugem, & totum gregem

Consumat vnus igne subiecto rogus.

A. Hoc munus à te genitor Alcidæ peto,

Rogare quod me deceat, vt primus cadam.

L. Qui morte cunctos luere supplicium iubet,

Nescit tyrannus esse: diuersa irroga.

Miserum veta perire, fœlicem iube.

Ego, dum cremandis trabibus accrescit ro-
(gus

Sacro regentem maria votiuo rogem.

A. Pròh numinum vis summa, pròh cœlestiũ

Rector, parensq;, cuius excusis tremunt

Humana telis, impiam regis feri

Cõpesce dextram: quid Deos frustra precor?

Vbicunq; es audi nate. cur subito labant

Agitata

Euen throwne vpon theyr heds: his wyfe,
and all his flocke at laſte
With vnderlayed fyre, let one
wood pyle conſume and waſte.
AM. This only bowne I father of
Alcides aſke of thee,
Whiche well may me beſeeme to craue,
that I firſt ſlayne may bee.
LY. Who all appoynts with preſent deathe
to haue theyr punyſhment,
The tyrant wotts not how to bes:
more ſundry greeues inuent.
Reſtrayne the wretched man from death,
commaunde that th'happy dye.
I, whyle with beames preparde to burne
the pyle encreaſeth hye,
Wyll hym with vowyng ſacrifyce
that rules the ſeas entreate.
AM. Oh chiefeſt powre of godds, and oh
of heauenly thyngs ſo great
The guyde, and parent eke, with whoſe
throwne thunderbolts doo ſhake
All thyngs humane throughout the worlde,
of kyng ſo cruell ſtake
The wycked hande: but why doo I
to godds in vayne thus crye:
Where euer thou be heare me ſoon.
why ſtarte ſo ſodaynlye

The

Agitata motu templa? cur mugit solum?

Infernus imo sonuit è fundo fragor:

Audimur, en est sonitus Herculei gradus.

Chorus.

Choriambici seu Asclepiadæi.

O Fortuna viris inuida fortibus,
Quam nō æqua bonis præmia diuidis?
Eurystheus facili regnet in otio,
Alcmena genitus bella per omnia,
Monstris exagitet cœliferam manum:
Serpentis relecet colla ferocia,
Deceptis referat mala sororibus,
Cum somno dederint perrigiles genas,
Pomis diuitibus præpositus Draco.
Intrauit Scythiæ multiuagas domos,
Et gentes patriis sedibus hospitas:
Calcauitq; freti terga rigentia,
Et mutis tacitum littoribus mare.
Illic dura carent æquora fluctibus:
Et quà plena rates carbasa tenderant,
Intonsis teritur semita Sarmatis.
Stat pontus vicibus mobilis annuis,
Nauem nunc facilis, nunc equitem pati.
Illic qua viduis gentibus imperat,
Aurato religans ilia baltheo,

Detraxi

The temples thus with mouyng shakte
Why roareth out the grownde:
The noyse of hell from bottome deepe
bypeathe hath made a sownde:
We herde are, loe it is the sownde
of Hercules his pace.

Chorus.

O fortune hatyng men of stoutest brest,
howe yll rewards dost thou to good deuyde:
Eurysthcus raynes at home in easye rest,
Alcmenaes sonne in euery battayle tryde,
To mōsters turns his hand ẏ skies did stay:
and cruell neckes cuts of of hydous snake,
And apples bryngs frō systers mokt away,
whē once to slepe his watcheful eies betake,
Did dragon set ryche fruite to ouerse.
he past the Scythiā bowres ẏ stray abroade,
And those that in their coūtreis strangers be
and hardened top of frolen freat he troade,
And sylent sea with banks ful dūme about.
the waters hard wāt ther their floods to flo.
And where before ẏ ships full sails spred out
is wone a pathe for Sarmates wyld to go.
The sea doth stand to moue in course again,
now apt to beare the ship, now horsmen bold
The quene ẏ there doth ouer wydows rayn,
ẏ girds her wōbe w̄ girth of glittryng gold,

Her

Detraxit ſpolium nobile corpori,
Et peltam, & niuei vincula pectoris,
Victorem poſito ſuſpiciens genu.
Qua ſpe præcipites actus ad inferos,
Audax ire vias irremiabiles
Vidiſti Siculæ regna Proſerpinæ?
Illic nulla Noto, nulla Fauonio
Conſurgunt tumidis fluctibus æquora.
Non illic geminum Tyndaridæ genus
Succurrunt timidis ſydera nauibus.
Stat nigro pelagus gurgite languidum
Et cum mors auidis pallida dentibus
Gentes innumeras manibus intulit,
Vno tot populi remige tranſeunt.
Euincas vtinam iura feræ Stygis,
Parcarumq; colos irreuocabiles.
Hic qui rex populis pluribus imperat,
Bello cum peteres Neſtoriam Pylon,
Tecum conſeruit peſtiferas manus,
Telũ ter gemina cuſpide præferens:
Effugit tenui vulnere ſaucius,
Et mortis dominus pertimuit mori.
Fatum rumpe manu: triſtibus inferis
Proſpectus pateat lucis, & inuius
Limes det faciles ad ſuperos vias.
Immites potuit flectere cantibus
Vmbrarum dominos, & prece ſupplici
Orpheus, Eurydicen dum repetit ſuam.

Quæ

Her noble spoile from body drawne hath she
& shield, & bands of brest as white as snowe,
Acknowlegyng the conquerour with knee.
w̄ what hope drawne to hedlōg hell alowe,
So bolde to passe the vnreturned wayes
sawst thou Proserpines rayne of Sicylye?
With southern wīd, or western ther no seas
aryse with waue and swellyng surges hye.
Not there of Tyndars stocke ẏ double brood
two starrs the feareful ships do aide & guide.
with gulph ful blak doth stād ẏ slothful flood
and whē pale deth with gredy teeth so wide
Vnnūbred natiōs hath set down to sprights
with one boate man all ouer feryed bee.
God graūt thou maist of hel subdue ẏ rights
And vnreuoked webs of systers three,
There kyng of many people raigneth hee,
who whē thou didst w̄ Nestors Pylos fight,
Pestiferous hāds applide to matche w̄ thee
& weapon bare with triple mace of might:
And prickt with litle wound he fled awaye,
and lorde of death hymselfe did feare to dye.
Breake fate by force: & let the syght of daye
to sory sprights of hell apparent lye,
and porche vnpast shew way to gods aboue.
the cruel lords of sprights with plesant song
Andhūble bown ful wel could Orphe⁹ moue
while he Eurydicen them craues among.

The

Quæ ſyluas,& aues,ſaxáq;traxerat,
Ars,quæ præbuerat fluminibus moras,
Ad cuius ſonitum conſtiterant feræ,
Mulcet non ſolitis vocibus inferos,
Et ſurdis reſonat clarius in locis:
Deflent & lachrymis difficiles Dei:
Et qui fronte nimis crimina tetrica
Quærunt,ac veteres excutiunt reos:
Deflent Eurydicen Thræiciæ nurus.
Flentes Eurydicen Iuridici ſedent.
Tandem mortis,ait, vincimur arbiter.
Eúade ad ſuperos,lege tamen data,
Tu poſt terga tui perge viri comes,
Tu non ante tuam reſpice coniugem,
Quàm cum clara Deos obtulerit dies,
Spartaniq; aderit ianua Tænari.
Odit verus amor,nec patitur moras.
Munus,dum properat cernere,perdidit.
Quæ vinci potuit regia cantibus,
Hæc vinci poterit regia viribus.

ACTVS TERTIVS

Hercules.

Trimetri Iambici.

O Lucis alme rector, & cœli decus,
Qui alterna curru ſpatia flāmifero am-
(bicns

The art ỳ drew woods, birds, & stones at wil
which made delay to flouds of flitting flight
At soũd wherof the sauage beasts stood styll
with tunes vnwõt doth ghosts of hel delight
And cleerer dothe resounde in darker place:
& wepe with teares dio gods of cruell brest:
And they which sautes with so seuere a face
do seeke, & former gylt of ghosts out wrest:
The Thracian daughters wails Eurydicẽ.
for her the iudges weeping sitte also.
We cõquerd ar, chief kyng of death said thẽ
to godds (but vnder this cõdition) goe,
Behynd thy husbands back kepe ỳ thy way,
looke thou not backe thy wyfe before to see,
Thã the to sight of gods hath brought ỳ day
and gate of Spartane Taenare present bee.
Loue hates delay, nor coulde abyde so long.
his gylte, he lofte, while he desires the syght.
The place ỳ coulde be thus subdewd w̃ long
that place may soone be ouercom by myght.

THE THYRDE ACTE.

Hercules.

O Comfortable guyde of lyght,
and honour of the skye,
That cõpassyng both hemysphere
with flamyng charyot hye

Thy

Illustre lætis exeris terris caput,
Da Phœbe veniam, si quid illicitum tui
Videre vultus: iussus in lucem extuli
Secreta mundi: tuq; cœlestum arbiter,
Parensq;, visus fulmine opposito tege.
Et tu secundo maria qui sceptro regis,
Imas pete vndas: quisquis ex alto aspicit,
Terrena facie pollui metuens noua,
Aciem reflectat, oraq; in cœlum erigat,
Portenta fugiens: hoc nefas cernant duo,
Qui aduexit, & quæ iussit. In pœnas meas,
Atq; in labores, non satis terræ patent
Iunonis odio: vidi inaccessa omnibus,
Ignota Phœbo, quæq; deterior polus

Obscura

Thy radiant head to ioyfull landes
about the worlde do ſte bryng,
Thou Phœbus pardon geue to me,
yf any vnlawfull thyng
Thyne eyes haue ſeene: (commanded) I
haue here to lyght out fette
The ſecretes of the worlde: and thow
of heauen o guyder grette,
And parent eke, in flaſhe out throwne
of lyghtnyng hyde thy ſyght.
And thou that gouerneſt the ſeas
with ſeconde ſceptors myght,
To bottome ſynke of deepeſt waues:
who ſo from hye dothe ſee,
And dreadyng yet with countnance newe
the erthe deſylde to bee,
Let hym from hens turne backe his ſyght,
and face to heauen vpholde,
Theſe mõſtrous ſyghts to ſhoon: let twain
this miſchiefe great beholde,
Ye who it brought, and ſhe that bande.
for paynefull toyles to me,
And labours long, not all the earthe
thowght wyde ynough may be
For Junoes hate: thyngs vncome to
of all men I dyd ſee,
Vnknowne to ſonne, and ſpaces wyde
that darke and ſhadefull bee

Whiche

Hercul. fur. Senecæ.

Obſcura diro ſpatia conceſsit Ioui.

Et ſi placerent tertiæ ſortis loca,

Regnare potui. noctis æternæ chaos,

Et nocte quiddam grauius, & triſtes Deos,

Et fata vici, morte contempta redii.

Quid reſtat aliud? vidi & oſtendi inferos:

Da, ſi quid vltra eſt, tam diu pateris manus

Ceſſare noſtras Iuno? quid vinci iubes?

Sed templa quare miles infeſtus tenet?

Limenq; ſacrum terror armorum obſidet?

AMPHITRYON.

Hercules.

Theſeus.

Trimetri Iambici.

VTrúmne viſus vota decipiunt meos?

An ille domitor orbis, & Gtaiûm dec°,

Triſti

Whiche woorser poale geeues dyrer Joue
to raigne and rule theryn.
And yet yf thyrde place pleasyd more
for me to enter yn,
I there coulde raigne. the Chaos of
eternall nyght of hell,
And woorse then nyght, the dolefull godds
I haue that there doo dwell,
And fates subdude, the deathe contemnde
I am returnde to lyght.
What yet remaynes? I sawe and showde
the spryghts of hell to syght:
Appoynte, yf ought be more, doste thou
my hands so long permyt
Juno to ceasse? what thyng bydst thou
to be subdued yet?
But why doo cruell sowldyars holde
the holy temples wyde?
And dreade of armour sacred porche
beset on euery syde?

Amphitryon, Hercules, Theseus.

DOo eyther ells my great desyres
delude and mocke myne eyes?
Or hath the tamer of the worlde
and greekes renowne lykewyse,

Triſti ſilentem nubilo liquit domum?
Eſtne ille natus? membra lætitia ſtupent.
O nate, certa, & ſera Thebarum ſalus,
Verúmne cerno corpus? an fallor tua
Deceptus vmbra? túne es? agnoſco toros,
Humeroſq́;, & alto nobilem trunco manum.
H. Vnde iſte (genitor) ſqualor, & lugubribus
Amicta coniux? vnde tam fœdo obſiti
Pædore nati? quæ domum clades grauat?
A. Socer eſt peremptus: regna Lycus poſsidet.
Natos, parentem, coniugem leto petit.
H. Ingrata tellus, nemo ad Herculeæ domus
Auxilia venit? vidit hoc tantum nefas
Defenſus orbis? cur diem queſtu tero?

Forsooke the silent howse, besette
with cloude full sadde to see?
Is this my sonne? my membres loe
for ioy amased bee.
Oh sonne, the sure, and sauegarde late
of Thebes in mysery,
See I thy bodye true in deede?
or els deceyude am I
Mockt with thy spright? art thou the same?
these brawnes of armes I knowe,
And shoulders, and thy noble handes
From body hye that growe.
HER. Whens (father) happs this vglynes,
And why in mournyng cladde
Is thus my wyfe? howe happs it that
with fylthe so fowle bestadde
My chyldren are? what myserye
doothe thus my howse oppresse?
AM. Thy father in lawe is slayne: the kyng-
dome Lycus doothe possesse.
Thy sonnes, thy parent, and thy wyfe
to deathe pursueth he.
HER. Ungratefull land, dothe no man come
that will an ayder be
Of Hercles howse? and this behelde
so greate and heynous wrong
Hath th'ayded worlde? but why weare I
the daye in playnt so long?

Mactetur hostis: hanc ferat virtus notam,
Fiatq; summus hostis Alcidæ Lycus.
Ad hauriendum sanguinem inimicum feror.
Theseu resiste, ne qua vis subita ingruat:
Me bella poscunt. differ amplexus parens,
Coniuxq; differ: nunciet Diti Lycus
Me iam rediisse. Th. Flebilem ex oculis fuge
Regina vultum, tuq; nato sospite
Lachrymas cadentes reprime: si noui Hercu-
(lem,
Lycus Creonti debitas pœnas dabit.
Lentũ est, dabit: dat: hoc quoq; est lentũ, dedit.
A. Votum secũdet, qui potest, nostrum deus,
Rebusq; lasis adsit. O magni comes
Magnanime nati, pande virtutum ordinem:

Quàm

Let th'enmy dye: and this renowne
let strengthe obtayne in haste,
And of Alcides enmyes all
let Lycus be the laste.
I dryuen am to goe to shedde
the blood of enmye out.
Watche Theseu, that no sodayne strength
beeset vs heere about.
Ye warres requyre. enbracyng yet
deferre O father deare,
And wyfe deferre them: Lycus shall
to hell this message beare
That I am nowe returnde. THE. Shake of
O queene out of thyne eyes
This weepyng face, and thou sens that
thy sonne is safe lykewyse
Thy droppyng teares refrayne: yf yet
I Hercles euer knewe,
Then Lycus shall for Creon paye
the paynes to hym full dewe.
Tis lyght, he shall: he doothe: and thats
to lyght, he hathe it doone.
AM. Now god that can them bring to passe,
speede well our wyshes soone,
And come to helpe our wearye woes.
O noble harted mate
Of my stoute sonne, of his renowns
declare vs all the rate:

Quàm longa mœstos ducat ad manes via,
Vt vincla tulerit dura tart areus canis.
TH. Memorare cogis acta, ſecuræ quoq;
Horrenda menti, vix adhuc certa eſt fides
Vitalis auræ, torpet acies luminum,
Hebeteſq; viſus vix diem inſuetum ferunt.
A. Peruince Theſeu quicquid alto pectore
Remanet pauoris, néue te fructu optimo
Fraudalaborum. Quod fuit durum pati,
Meminiſſe dulce eſt. Fare caſus horridos.
T. Fas omne mundi, teq; dominante precor
Regno capaci, teq;, quam tota irrita
Quæſiuit Ætna mater, vt iura abdita
Et operta terris, liceat impune eloqui.

Spartana

Howe long a waye doothe leade to place
where sory sprights doo dwell,
And howe the harde and heauy bonds
the dogge hathe borne of hell.
THE. The deedes ỹ dooth constrayne to tell,
that euen to mynde secure
Are dredfull yet and horryble,
scant yet the truthe is sure
Of vitall ayre, sore blunted is
the sharpnesse of my syght,
And dulled eyes doo scant sustayne
to see th'vnwoonted lyght.
AM. Yet Theseus throwghly ouercome
what euer feare remaynes
In bosome deepe, nor doo thou not
of best frute of thy paynes
Beguylde thy selfe. What thyng hath once
to suffre beene a care,
To haue remembred it is sweete.
those dredfull happs declare.
THE. All ryght of worlde, and thee lykewise
I pray that bearthe the rayne
In kyngdome wyde, and thee, for whome
All rownde about in vayne
Thy mother throughout Ætna sowght,
that secret thyngs alowe
And hydde in grownde, it freely may
bee lawfull for to showe.

Spartana tellus nobile attollit iugum,
Denſis vbi æquor Tænarus ſyluis premit.
Hic ora ſoluit Ditis inuiſi domus,
Hiatq́; rupes alta, & immenſo ſpecu
Ingens vorago faucibus vaſtis patet,
Latumq́; pandit omnibus populis iter.
Non cæca tenebris incipit primo via.
Tenuis relictæ lucis à tergo nitor,
Fulgorq́; dubius ſolis afflicti cadit,
Et ludit aciem: tale non dubiè ſolet
Præbere lumen primus, aut ſerus dies.
Hinc ampla vacuis ſpatia laxantur locis,
In quæ omne merſũ pereat humanum genus.
Nec ire labor eſt, ipſa deducit via.

The Spartane lande a noble toppe
of hyll aduaunceth hye,
Wl here Tænarus with woodes full thycke
the sea doothe ouerlye.
The house of hatefull Ditis here
his mowthe doothe open sette,
And rocks of hyll aboue doothe gape,
and with a denne full grette
A huge and gapyng cleft of grawnde
with iawes full wyde doothe lye,
And way full broade to people all
dothe spredde to passe therby.
Not straight with darkenes dothe begynne
The way that blyndes the syght.
A lyttle lyngryng brightnes lo
behynde of late lefte lyght,
And doubtfull glyttryng yet of sonne
afflicted falles alowe,
And mocks the syght; suche lyght is woont
vndoubtedly to showe
The dawne of day, or twylyght els
at edge of euenyng tyde.
From hens to hollowe places voyde
Are loasse the spaces wyde,
To whiche needes perysshe must all kynde
of men that once are throwne.
Nor it a labour is to goe,
the waye it selfe leades downe.

As

Vt ſæpe puppes æſtus inuitas rapit,
Sic pronus agger vrget,atq; auidum chaos:
Gradumq; retro flectere haud vnquam ſinunt
Vmbræ tenaces.intus immenſo ſinu
Tacito quieta labitur Lethe vado,
Demitq; curas:néue remeandi amplius
Pateat facultas,flexibus multis grauem
Inuoluit amnem.Qualis incerta vagus
Mæander vnda ludit,& cedit ſibi,
Inſtatq; dubius,littus,an fontem petat.
Palus inertis fœda Cocyti iacet.
Hic vultur,illic lucifer bubo gemit,
Omenq; triſte reſonat infauſtæ Strigis.
Horrent opaca fronde nigrantes comæ,

Taxo

As ofte the shypps agaynst theyr wylles
dothe tosse the swellyng surge,
So downewarde dothe that hedlong way,
and greedy Chaos brge:
And backe agayne to drawe thy pace.
thee neuer doo permytte
The sprights who what they catch hold fast,
alowe within doothe flytte
In chanell wyde with sylent foorde
the quiet lake of lethe,
And cares dothe rydde: and that theremay
to scape agayne from deathe
No meane be made, with many turnes
and wyndyngs euery waye
Folldes in his floode. in suche sorte as
with waue vnsure dooths play
Meander wandryng vp and downe,
And yeldes hymselfe vnto,
And doubtfull stands, yf he toward banke,
or backe to spryng may go.
The soule and sylthy poole to see
of slowe Cocytus lyes.
On th'one the gryps, on th'other syde
the mournefull howlet cryes,
And sadde lucke of th'unhappy Strix
lykewyse resoundeth there.
Full vglye lye in shady bowes
blacke lockes of lothsome heare,

Where

Taxo imminente, quam tenet ſegnis Sopor,
Fameſq; mœſta tabido rictu iacens,
Pudorq; ſerus conſcios vultus tegit,
Metus, Pauorq;, Funus, & frendens Dolor,
Aterq; luctus ſequitur, & morbus tremens,
Et cincta ferro bella: in extremo abdita
Iners ſenectus adiuuat baculo gradum.
A. Eſtné aliqua tellus Cereris, aut Bacchi fe-
(rax?
T. Non prata viridi læta facie germinant,
Nec adulta leni fluctuat Zephyro ſeges.
Non vlla ramos ſylua pomiferos habet.
Sterilis profundi vaſtitas ſqualet ſoli,
Et fœda tellus torpet æterno ſiti
Rerumq; mœſtus finis, & mundi vltima:

Immotus

Where Taxus tree dothe ouer leane,
whiche holdeth slouthfull sleepe,
And hunger sadde with sampsht iawe
that lyes his place to keepe,
And shame to late doth hyde his face
that knowes what crimes it hathe,
Bothe feare, and quakyng, funerall,
and frettyng ragyng wrathe,
And mournyng dyre dothe followe on,
and trembiyng pale disease,
And boystrous battailes set with swoorde:
and hydde beyonde all thease
Dothe slouthfull age his lyngryng pace
healpe foorth with staffe in hande.
A M. Of corne and wyne in hell alowe
is any fertile lande?
THE No ioyful meades do there bring foorth
with face so greene and fayre,
Nor yet with gentyll Zephyrus
wagges ripened corne in th'ayre.
Nor any tree hath there suche bowes
as doe bryng apples out.
The barrayne compasse of deepe soyle
full fylthye lyes about,
And withred with eternall drought
the lothsome lande dothe waste
And bonde full sadde of thyngs, and of
the worlde the places laste:

The

Immotus aer hæret, & pigro sedet
Nox atra mundo, cuncta mœrore horrida.
Ipsaq; morte, peior est mortis locus.
Am. Quid ille opaca qui regit sceptro loca,
Qua sede positus, temperat populos leues?
Th. Est in recessu Tartari obscuro locus,
Quem grauibus vmbris spissa caligo alligat.
A fonte discors manat hinc vno latex:
Alter, quieto similis (hunc iurant Dei)
Tacente sacram deuehens fluuio Styga:
At hic tumultu rapitur ingenti ferox,
Et saxa fluctu voluit Acheron inuius
Renauigari. cingitur duplici vado
Aduersa Ditis regia, atq; ingens domus

Vmbrante

The ayre vnmoued ſtands, and nyght
ſytts there full darke to ſee
In ſouthfull woꝛlde, all thynges by dꝛeade
full hoꝛrible there bee.
And euen farre woꝛſe then deathe it ſelfe,
is place where deathe doothe byde.
AM. What? he that doth thoſe places darke
with regall ſceptor gwyde,
In what ſeate ſette, dothe he diſpoſe
and rule thoſe peoples light?
THE. A place there is in turne obſcure
of Tartarus from ſyght,
Which myſt full thicke with feareful ſhade
doothe holde and ouergoe.
From hens a double parted ſtreame
from one well ſpꝛyng doothe floe:
The tone, muche lyke a ſtandyng poole
(by this the goodds doo ſweare)
The whiche the ſacred Stygian lake
with ſilent floude doothe beare:
The tother fierce with tumulte great
is dꝛawen hys courſe to goe,
And Acheron with ragyng floods
the ſtones dꝛyues to and froe
Unſayable. with double foꝛde
is rounde about beſette
Agaynſt it Ditis palayce dyre,
and manſyon howſe full gꝛette

In

Vmbrante luco tegitur: hic vasto specu
Pendent tyranni limina, hoc vmbris iter:
Hæc porta regni: campus hanc circa iacet,
In quo superbo digerit vultu sedens
Animas recentes. dira maiestas deo:
Frons torua, fratrum quæ tamen specimen ge-
(rat,
Gentisq; tantæ: vultus est Illi Iouis,
Sed fulminantis: magna pars regni trucis,
Est ipse dominus: cuius aspectum timet,
Quicquid timetur. A. Veráne est fama, inferis
Tam sæua reddi iura, & oblitos sui
Sceleris nocentes, debitas pœnas dare?
Quis iste veri rector, atq; æqui arbiter?
T. Non vnus alta sede quæsitor sedens

Iudici

In shadefull woode is couered:
from wide denne here the posts
And thresholds of the tyrant hang,
this is the walke of ghosts:
This of his kyngdome is the gate:
a felde about it goes,
Where sytting with a countnsaunce proude
abroade he doothe dispose
Newe sowles. a cruell maiestie,
is in the god to knowe:
A frownyng forehead, whyche yet of
his brethren beares the showe,
And so great stocks: there is in hym
of Ioue the very face,
But when he lyghtens: and great parte
of cruell kyngdomes place,
Is he hymselfe the lorde therof:
the syght of whome doothe feare,
What euer thyng is fearde. AM. Is fame
in this poynt trewe, that there
Suche rygours are, and gyltie ghosts
of men that there remayne
Forgetfull of theyr former faute,
haue their deserued payne:
Who is the rector there of ryght,
and iudge of equitye:
THE. Not onely one extorter out
of fautes in seate sette hye

Iudicia trepidis ſera ſortitur reis:
Auditur illo Gnoſius Minos foro,
Radamanthus illo: Thetidis hoc audit ſocer.
Quod quiſq; fecit, patitur: authorem ſcelus
Repetit, ſuoq; premitur exemplo nocens.
Vidi cruentos carcere includi duces,
Et impotentis terga plebeia manu
Scindi tyranni. quiſquis eſt placidè potens,
Dominuſq; vitæ ſeruat innocuas manus,
Et incruentum mitis imperium regit,
Animoq; parcit, longa permenſus dies
Fœlicis æui ſpatia, vel cœlum petit,
Vel lætafœlix nemoris Elyſii loca.
Iudex futurus ſanguine humano abſtine,

The iudgements late to tremblyng sowles
doothe there by lotte awarde:
In one appointed iudgement place
is Gnossian Minos harde,
And in an other Radamanthe:
This cryme doothe Aeac heare.
What eche man onze hath doone, he feeles:
and guylt to th'authoz theare
Returnes, and th'hurtfull with their owne
example punnysht bee.
The bluddy cruell captaynes I
in pryson shette dyd see,
And backe of tyrant impotent
euen with hys peoples hande
All torne and cutte. what man of myght
with fauour leades his lande,
And of his owne lyke loode reserues
his hurtlesse handes to good,
And gently doothe his empyre guyde
without the thyrst of blood,
And spares his sowle, he hauyng long
ledde foorthe the lyngryng dayes
Of happy age, at lengthe to heauen
doothe eyther fynde the wayes,
Or ioyfull happy places elis
of kayre Elysius woode.
Thou then that here muste be a iudge
abstayne from man his bloode,

Quicunq; regnas: scelera taxantur modo
Maiore nostra. AM. Certus incluſos tenet
Locus nocentes, vtq; fert fama, impios
Supplicia vinclis ſæua perpetuis domant?
TH. Rapitur volucri tortus Ixion rota:
Ceruice ſaxum grande Siſyphea ſedet.
In amne medio faucibus ſiccis ſenex
Sectatur vndas, abluit mentum latex,
Fidemq; cum iam ſæpe decepto dedit,
Perit vnda: in ore poma deſtituunt famem.
Præbet volucri Tityus æternas dapes:
Vrnaſq; fruſtra Danaides plenas ferunt.
Errant furentes impiæ Cadmeides:
Terretq; menſas auida Phineas auis.

AM.

Who so thou bee that raygnest kyng:
our gyltes are there acquytte
In greater wyse. AM. Doothe any place
prescript of lymite thytte
The gyltie ghosts, and as the fame
reportes, doothe cruell payne
The wycked men make taine that in
eternall bondes remayne?
THE. Jxion rollde on whyrlyng wheele
is tost and turned hye:
Vppon the necke of Sisyphus
the myghty stone dooth lye.
Amyd the lake with thyrsty iawes
olde Tantalus theryn
Pursues the waues, the water streams
doothe wette and washe his chyn,
And when to hym nowe ofte deceyude
it doothe yet prompte make,
Straight flytts the flood: the frute at mowth
his fampne doothe forsake.
Eternall foode to fleeyng fowle
doothe Tityus harte geue styll:
And Danaus daughters doo in vayne
theyr water vessells fyll.
The wycked Cadmus daughters all
go ragyng euery waye:
And there doothe greedy rauenyng byrde
the Phiney tables fraye.

AM. Nunc ede nati nobilem pugnam mei.
Patrui volentis munus, an ſpolium referri?
T. Ferale tardis imminet ſaxum vadis,
Stupente vbi vnda ſegne torpeſcit fretum:
Hunc ſeruat amnē, cultu, & aſpectu horridus,
Pauidoſq; manes ſqualidus geſtat ſenex:
Impexa pendet barba, deformem ſinum
Nodus coërcet, concauæ ſqualent genæ:
Regit ipſe conto portitor longo ratem.
Hic onere vacuam littori puppim applicans,
Repetebat vndas: poſcit Alcides viam,
Cedente turba: dirus exclamat Charon,
Quo pergis audax? ſiſte properātem gradum.
Non paſſus vllas natus Alcmena moras,

Ipſo

AM. Nowe of my sonne declare to me
the noble woorthy fyght.
Bryngs he his wyllyng vnkles gyfte,
or Plutoes spoyles to syght?
THE. A dyre and dredfull stone there ys
the slouthfull foordes fast bye,
Where sluggysh freate with waue astoond
full dull and slowe doothe lye:
This lake a dredfull fellowe keepes
bothe of attyre and syght,
And quakyng ghosts doothe ouer beare
An aged vgly wyght:
His bearde vnkempt, his bosome fowle
deformde in fylthy wyse
A knotte byndes in, full lothesome stande
in head his hollowe eyes:
He fery man doothe steare aboute
his boate with his long ore.
He dryuyng nowe his lyghtned shippe
of burden towarde the shore,
Repaires to waues: and then his way
Alcides doothe requyre.
The flocke of ghosts all geuyng place:
Alowde cries Charon dyre,
What way attemptest thou so bolde?
thy hasteuyng pace here staye.
But natheles Alcmenaes sonne
abydyng no delaye,

Ipſo coactum nauitam conto domat,
Scãditq; puppem: cymba populorum capax,
Succubuit vni: ſedit, & grauior ratis
Vtrinq; Lethen latere titubante bibit.
Tunc vaſta trepidant monſtra, Centauri tru-
(ces,
Lapithæq;, multo ad bella ſuccenſi mero.
Stygiæ paludis vltimos quærens ſinus,
Fœcunda mergit capita Lernæus labor.
Poſt hæc auari Ditis apparet domus.
Hic ſæuus vmbras territat Stygius canis,
Qui terna vaſto capita concutiens ſono,
Regnum tuetur. ſordidum tabo caput
Lambunt colubri: viperis horrent iubæ,
Longuſq; torta ſibilat cauda Draco:

Par

Euen with his owne poale bette he doothe
full tame the shypman make,
And clymes the shippe: the barke that could
full many peoples take,
Dyd yelde to one: he satte, the boate
more heauy lyke to breake
With shyueryng ioyntes on eyther syde
the lethey floode doothe leake.
Then tremble all the monsters huge,
the Centaures fierce of myght,
And Lapythes, kyndled with muche wyne
to warres and blouddy fyght.
The lowest chanelles seekyng out
of Stygian poole a downe,
His lerney labour sore affright
his fertyle heddes doothe drowne.
Of greedy Ditis after this
doothe then the house appere.
The fierce and cruell Stygian dogge
doothe fraye the spirites there,
The whiche with great and roaryng sounde
his hedds vpshakyng three,
The kyngdome keepes: his ugly head
with fylthe full fowle to see
The serpentes lycke: his heares be fowle
with vppers sette among,
And at his crooked wrested tayle
doothe hysse a dragon longe:

Lyke

Par ira formæ. sensit vt motus pedum,
Attollit hirtas angue vibrato comas:
Missumq; captat aure subiecta sonum,
Sentire & vmbras solitus. vt propior stetit
Ioue natus, antro sedit incertus canis,
Et vterq; timuit. ecce latratu graui
Loca muta terret, sibilat toros minax
Serpens per armos: vocis horrendæ fragor
Per ora missus terna, fœlices quoq;
Exterret vmbras. soluit à læua feros
Tunc ipse rictus & Cleonæum caput
Opponit, ac se tegmini ingenti clepit.
Victrice magnum dextera robur gerens,
Huc nunc, & illuc verbere assiduo rotat:

Inge-

Like vse to shape. when hym he wyll
his pace that way to take,
His bristle heares he lysteth vp
with fierce vp bended snake:
And sownde sent out he soone perceyues
in his applyed eare,
Who euen the spyghts is woonte to sent.
as soone as stoode more neare
The sonne of Ioue, the doubtfull dogge
strayte couched downe in denne,
And eche of them dyd feare. beholde
with dolefull barkyng then
The places dumme he makes adred,
the threatnyng serpent stoute
Through all the fieldes aboute dooth hylle:
the bawlyng noyse sent out
Of dredfull voyce from triple mouthe,
euen spryghts that happy bee
Dothe make afrayde. from lefte syde them
strayte way vndoeth hee
The cruell tawes, and lyons heed
once slayne in Cleon fielde
Agaynst hym setts, and couer doothe
hymselfe with myghty shielde.
And bearyng in his conquerryng hande
a sturdy clubbe of oke,
Nowe here, nowe there he rolleth hym
about with often strokes:

His

Ingeminat ictus: domitus infregit minas,
Et cuncta lassus capita submisit canis,
Antroq; toto cessit, extimuit sedens
Vterq; solio dominus, & duci iubet.
Me quoq; petenti munus Alcidæ dedit.
Tunc grauia monstri colla permulcēs manu,
Adamante texto vincit: oblitus sui
Custos opaci peruigil regni canis,
Componit aures timidus: & patiens trahi,
Herumq; fassus, ore submisso obsequens,
Vtrunq; cauda pulsat anguifera latus.
Postquam est ad oras Tænari ventū, & nitor
Percussit oculos lucis ignotæ, bonos
Resumit animos victus, & vastas furens

Quassat

His strypes he doubles: he subdewde
his threates asswaged all,
And all his heds the weery dogge
at once full lowe lette fall,
And quight out of the denne he fledde.
full greatly feared (sette
In regall throne) bothe kyng and queene,
and badde hym to bee fette.
And me lykewyse they gaue for gyfte
to Hercles crauyng me.
The monsters heauy neckes with hande
then stroakyng downe all three,
In lynked chayne he byndeth faste:
forgettyng then his strengthe
The dogge the watchefull keeper of
the kyngdome darke, at lengthe
Laythe downe his eares full sore affrayde:
and suffryng to be ledde,
And eke acknowleging his lorde,
folowyng with lowly hedde,
With tayle that snakes theron doothe beare
he bothe his sydes doothe smyght.
But after that to Tænare mouthe
we came, and clearenes bryght
Had stroake his eyes of lyght vnknowne,
good stomacke yet agayne
He takes althowgh onse ouercome,
and now the heauye chayne

He

Quaſſat catenas: penè vectorem abſtulit,
Pronumq́; retrouexit, & mouit gradu.
Tunc & meas reſpexit Alcides manus,
Geminis vterq; viribus tractum canem
Ira furentem, & bella tentantem irrita,
Intulimus orbi. vidit vt clarum æthera,
Et pura nitidi ſpatia conſpexit poli,
Oborta nox eſt: lumina in terram dedit,
Compreſsit oculos, & diem inuiſum expulit,
Aciemq́; retro flexit, atq; omni petit
Cernice terram: tum ſub Herculea caput
Abſcondit vmbra. denſa ſed læto venit
Clamore turba, frontibus laurum gerens:
Magniq́; meritas Herculis laudes canit.

Chorus.

The ragyng shakes: he had almost
his leader pluckt from place,
And hedlong backwarde drawne to hell;
and moued from his pace.
And euen to my handes Hercles then
his eies dyd backewarde caste,
Wherbothe with double toyned strengthe
the dogge out drawne at laste
For anger woode, and battells yet
attemptyng all in vayne,
Brought vp to worlde. as soone as he
the cleere ayre sawe agayne,
And spaces pure of bryght fayre poale
had once beheldе with eye,
The nyght arose: his syght to grownde
he turned by and by,
Caste downe his eyes, and hatefull daye
foorthwith he put to flyght,
And backewarde turnde away his looke,
And streyght with all hys myght
To th'erthe he falles: and vnderneathe
the shade of Hercles then
He hyd his head. therwith there came
a great resorte of men
With clamour gladde, that dyd the bay
about theyr forhedds bryng:
And of the noble Hercules
deserued prayses syng.

Cho-

Hercul.fur.Senecæ.

Chorus.

SAPPHICI HENdecaſyllabi.

NAtus Euryſtheus properante partu,
Iuſſerat mundi penetrare fundum:
Deerat hoc ſolum numero laborum,
Tertiæ regem ſpoliare ſortis.
Auſus eſt cæcos adire ritus,
Ducit ad manes via qua remotos
Triſtis, & ſylua metuenda nigra:
Sed frequens magna comitante turba.
Quantus incedit populus per vrbes,
Ad noui ludos auidus theatri:
Quantus Eléum coit ad tonantem,
Quinta cum ſacrum reuocauit æſtas:
Quanta cum longæ redit hora noctis,
Creſcere & ſomnos cupiens quietos,
Libra Phœbæos tenet æqua currus,
Turba ſecretam Cererem frequentat,
Et citi tectis properant relictis,
Attici noctem celebrare Myſtæ:
Tanta per campos agitur ſilentes
Turba. pars tarda gradiens ſenecta,
Triſtis, & longa ſatiata vita:
Pars adhuc currit melioris æui,
Virgines nondum thalamis iugatæ,
Et comis nondum poſitis ephebi,

Matris

Chorus.

EUrysthe⁹ born wͭ swiftned birth in hast,
did bid to bottom of the worlde to go:
This onely lackte of labours all at last,
to spoyle the kyng of thyrde estate also.
The dongeons darke to enter ventred he,
wher as ẏ way to sprights far of doth bryng
Full sadde, & woode so blacke & feard to be:
but full with flock full great him followyng.
As great a prease as flocke in cities streetes,
to see the playes of Theatre newe wrought:
As great as at Eléus thundrer meetes,
whē somer fift ẏ sacred game hath brought:
As gret as whē comes houre of lōger night,
and willyng quiet sleepes to bee extent,
Holds equal Libra Phœbus chariots light,
a sorte the secrete Ceres doo frequent,
And frō theyr howsen left doo hast to cum,
the Atticke priestes the nyght to celebrate:
Such heape is chast beneth by fields so dum,
with age ful slow som taking forth theirgate
Full sad, and fylld with life so long now led:
some yet do runne the race of better yeares,
The virgins yet vnioynde to spowses bed,
& yonglings eke on whō grow yet no heares

Matris & nomen modo doctus infans.
His datum ſolis, minus vt timerent,
Igne prælato releuare noctem.
Cæteri vadunt per opaca triſtes:
Qualis eſt nobis animus, remota
Luce, cum mœſtus ſibi quiſq; ſenſit
Obrutum tota caput eſſe terra.
Stat Chaos denſum, tenebræq; turpes,
Et color noctis malus, ac ſilentis
Otium mundi, variæq; nubes.
Sera nos illò referat ſenectus.
Nemo ad id ſero venit, vnde nunquam,
Cum ſemel venit, potuit reuerti.
Quid iuuat durum properare fatum?
Omnis hæc magnis vaga turba terris,
Ibit ad manes: facietq; inerti
Vela Cocyto. tibi creſcit omne,
Et quod occaſus videt, & quod ortus:
Parce venturis, tibi mors paratur:
Sis licet ſegnis, properamus ipſi.
Prima, quæ vitam dedit, hora carpſit.

Choriambici Glyconii verſus.

THebis læta dies adeſt,
Aras tangite ſupplices,
Pingues cædite victimas.
Permiſtæ maribus nurus
Solemnes agitent choros.
Ceſſent depoſito iugo
Arui fertilis incolæ.

And infāt lately taught his mothers name.
To these alone, (that thei ẏ les might feare)
Is graũted night to ease w̄ foreborne flame.
the rest full sad by darke doo wander theare:
As is our mynde, when ones away is fled
the lyght, when eche man sory feeles to bee
Deps ouerwhelmd with all the erth his hed.
thyck Chaos stands, & darknes fowle to see,
And colour yll of nyght, and slouthfull state
of silent world, and diuers clowdes abowt.
Let hoary age vs thyther bryng full late.
no mā comes late to that, whence neuer out,
Whē once he is come, turne agayn he may.
to hast the hard and heuy fate what vayles?
This wādring heape in wide lāds far away,
shall go to ghosts: & al shall geue their sayles
To slowe Cocytus. all is to thee enclynde,
both what the fall, and rise of sonne doth see:
Spare vs that cum, to the we deth ar signde:
though thou be slow, our selfs yet hast do we.
Fyrst houre, ẏ gaue the lyfe, it loast againe.

TO Thebes is come the ioyfull daye,
your aulters touche ye humbyllye,
The fatte fayre sacrifices slaye.
maydes myxte with men in cumpanye
Let them in solemne flocks goe royle:
and nowe with yoake layde downe let cease
The tyllers of the fertyle soyle.

Pax eſt Herculea manu
Auroram inter & Heſperum,
Et quà ſol medium tenens,
Vmbras corporibus negat.
Quodcunq; abluitur ſolum
Longo Tethyos ambitu,
Alcidæ domuit labor.
Tranſuectus vada Tartari
Pacatis redit inferis.
Iam nullus ſupereſt timor,
Nil vltra iacet inferos.
Stantes ſacrificus comas
Dilecta tege populo.

Actus Quartus.

Hercules. Theſeus, Amphitryon. Megara.

Trimetri Iambici.

VLtrice dextra fuſus aduerſo Lycus
Terram cecîdit ore: tũ quiſquis comes
Fuerat tyranni, iacuit & pœnæ comes.
Nunc ſacra patri victor, & ſuperis feram,
Cæſiſq; meritas victimis aras colam.
Te, te laborum ſocia, & adiutrix precor
Belligera

Made is with hande of Hercles peace
betweene the moꝛne and Helpers glade,
And whers ſonne holdyng myddle ſeate,
dothe make the bodyes caſte no ſhade.
What euer growṅde is ouerweate
with compaſſe long of ſeas abowght,
Alcides labour taemde full well.
he ouer foozdes of Tartare bꝛowght
Returnde appeaſed beeyng hell.
there is remaynyng nowe no feare,
Nought lyes beyonde the hell to ſee.
O pꝛeeſt thy ſtaryng lockes of heare
wꝛappe in with loued poplar tree.

The fourthe Acte.

Hercules, Theſeus, Amphitryon, Megara,

WIth my reuẽgyng right hand ſlayn
nowe Lycus loe the growṅde
with groueling face hath ſmit: thẽ
ſoeuer fellow ſowṅde (who
Of tyꝛant was, partaker of
his paynes dyd alſo lye.
Nowe to my father ſacrifyce
and godds victoꝛ wyll I,
And aulters that deſerue it, with
ſlayne offꝛyngs reuerence.
Thee, thee O mate of all my toyles
I pꝛaye and my defence

Belligera Pallas, cuius in læua ciet
Ægis feroces ore saxifico minas.
Adsit Lycurgi domitor, & rubri maris,
Tectam virenti cuspidem thyrso gerens:
Geminúmq; numẽ, Phœbus, & Phœbi soror,
Soror sagittis aptior, Phœbus lyræ:
Fratérq; quisquis incolit cœlum meus,
Non ex nouerca frater. huc appellite
Greges opimos, quicquid Indorum seges,
Arabésq; odoris quidquid arboribus legunt,
Conferte in aras: pinguis exudet vapor,
Populea nostras arbor exornet comas.
Te ramus oleæ fronde gentili tegat
Theseu: Tonantem nostra adorabit manus.

O warrefull Pallas, in whose lefte hande
thy cleare shielde Aegis shakes
Fierce thretes, w̄ head that eche thyng stone
that lookes vpon it makes.
Let tamer of Lycurgus nowe,
and of redde sea be heare,
That poynte of speare with yuye greene
in hande doothe couerde beare:
And two godds powre, bothe Phœbus, and
his syster too I prayе,
The syster meeter for her shaftes,
but he on th'harpe to playe:
And what soeuer brother ells
of myne doothe dwell in skye,
Not of my stepdame brother. bryng
ye hyther by and by
Your plentuous flockes, what euer haue
all th' Indians frutes browght owt,
And what sweete odours th' Arabickes
doo gette in trees abowt,
To th' aultars bryng: lette vapour farte
and fume smoke vp full hye,
Let rownde abowt the poplar tree
my heares nowe bewtifye.
Let th' olyue bowe there hyde with braunche
accustomde in our lande
Thescu: for sooth with reuerence
the thundrer, shall my hande.

TH. Dii conditores vrbis, & ſyluestria
Trucis antra Ceti, nobiles Dirces aquas,
Laremq́; regis qui aduenæ Tyrium colis.
H. Date thura flãmis. A. Nate manãtes prius
Manus cruenta cæde, & hoſtili expia.
HE. Vtinam cruorem capitis inuiſi deis
Libare poſſem, gratior nullus liquor
Tinxiſſet aras: victima haud vlla amplior
Poteſt, magiſq́; opima mactari Ioui,
Quàm rex iniquus. A. Finiat genitor tuos
Opta labores: detur aliquando otium,
Quieſq́; feſsis. H. Ipſe concipiam preces,
Ioue, meq́; dignas. ſtet ſuo cœlum loco,
Telluſq́;, & æther, aſtra inoffenſos agant

Æterna

THE. O godds the buylders of the towne,
and whiche of dragon fell,
The wylde woods denns, and noble wanes
lykewyse of Dirces well,
And Tyrian houle enhabite eke
of straunger wandryng kyng.
HER. Caste into fyres the frankencense.
AM. Sonne fyrste thy handes flowyng
with blouddy slaughter, and the deathe
of enmye purpye.
HER. Would god the blood of hatefull hed
Euen vnto godds on hye
I myght out shedde, for lycour lee
more acceptable none
Wyght th'aulters stayne: nor sacrifice
more ample any one
For yet more plentyfull may bee
To Joue aboue downe caste,
Then kyng vniust. AM. Delyre that nowe
thy father ende at laste
Thy labours all: lette quyetnesse
At lengthe yet gyuen bee,
And rest to wesry folke. HER. I wyll
the prayers make, for mee
And Joue full meete. yn his due place
Lette stande the haughty skye,
And lande, and ayre, and lette the starres
dryue foorthe eternallye

Theyr

Aeterna cursus: alta pax gentes alat,
Ferrum omne teneat ruris innocui labor,
Ensésq; lateant: nulla tempestas fretum
Violenta turbet: nullus irato Ioue
Exiliat ignis: nullus hyberna niue
Nutritus agros amnis euersos trahat.
Venena cessent: nulla nocituro grauis
Succo tumescat herba: non sæui, ac truces
Regnent tyranni: si quod etiamnum est scelus
Latura tellus, properet: & si quod parat
Monstrũ, meũ sit. Sed quid hoc? mediũ diem
Cinxere tenebræ, Phœbus obscuro meat
Sine nũbe vultu. quis diem retro fugat,
Agítq; in ortus? vnde nox atrum caput

Ignota

Their course vnstayde: let restfull peace
keepe nations quietlye,
Let labour of the hurtlesse lande
all yron nowe occuppye,
And swoordes lye hydde: let tempest none
fall byolent and dyre
Disturbe the sea: let from the skyes
no flashe of lyghtnyng fyre
Fall downe whyle Ioue full angry is:
nor yet with wynter snowe
Encreased floode the grownde dyturnde
and fieldes quight ouerthrowe.
Let poysons cease: and from henskoorth
let vp from grownde aryse
No greeuous herbe with hurtfull sappe:
nor fierce and fell lykewyse
Let tyrantes raygne: but yf to syght
some other mischiefe bryng
The grownde yet shall, let it make hacke:
and any monstrous thyng
If it prepare, let yt bee myne.
but what meanes this? myd daye
The darknes haue encloasde abowt,
lo Phœbus gothe his waye
With face obscure withowt a clowde.
who dryues the daye to flyght,
And turnes to east: from whence doth nowe
his dusky hed the nyght

Un-

Ignota profert vnde tot stellæ polum
Implent diurnæ? primus en noster labor
Cœli refulget parte non minima Leo,
Iráq; totus feruet, & morsus parat.
Iam rapiet aliquod sydus: ingenti minax
Stat ore, & ignes efflat, & rutilat iubam
Ceruice iactans. quidquid autumnus grauis,
Hyemsq; gelido frigida spatio refert,
Vno impetu transiliet, & verni petet,
Frangetq; Tauri colla. A. Quod subitum hoc (malum est?
Quò nate vultus huc, & huc acres refers?
Aciéq; falsum turbida cœlum vides?
H. Per domita tellus, tumida cesserunt freta,
Inferna nostros regna sensere impetus,

Immune

Unknown bryng forth? whēce fyl the poale
so many rownde about
Of daytyme starres? lo here beholde
my labour fyrst full stonte
Not in the lowest parte of heauen
the lyon shyneth bryght,
And feruently dothe rage with yre,
And byttes prepares to fyght.
Euen now loe he some starre wyl taket
with mouthe full wyde to see
He thretnyng stands, and fyres out blowes
and mane vp rustleth he
Shakyng with necke. the harnest sadde
of shape, what euer thyng,
And what soeuer wynter colde
in frosen tyme doothe bryng,
He with ons rage wyll ouerpasse,
of spryng tyme bull he wyll
Bothe seeke, and breake the neckes at once.
AM. What is this sodayne yll?
Thy cruell cowntnance whether sonne
Dooste thou caste here and there?
And seeste with troubled daselde syght
false shape of heauen appere?
HER. The land is tasmde, the swellyng seas
theyr surges dyd asswage,
The kyngdomes lowe of hell lykewyse
haue felte and knowne my rage,

yet

Inmune cœlum eſt, dignus Alcidæ labor.
In alta mundi ſpatia ſublimis ferar:
Petatur æther, aſtra promittit pater.
Quid ſi negaret? non capit terra Herculem,
Tandémq; ſuperis reddit. en vltro vocat
Omnis deorum cœtus, & laxat fores,
Vna vetante. recipis, & referas polum,
An contumacis ianuam mundi traho?
Dubitatur? etiam vincla Saturno exuam,
Contráq; patris impii regnum impotens,
Auum reſoluam. bella Titanes parent
Me duce furentes: ſaxa cum ſyluis feram,
Rapiámq; dextra plena Centaurris iuga.
Iam mõte gemino limitem ad ſuperos agam.

Yet heauen is free, a labour meete
for Hercules to proue.
To spaces hygh I wyll bee borne
of hawghtye sires abour:
Let th'ayre be skaelde, my father dooth
me promyse starrs t'obtayne.
What yf he it denyde: all th'earthe
can Hercles not contayne,
And geeues at length to godds me calls
of owne accorde beholde
The whole assembly of the godds,
and dooth theyr gates vnfolde,
Whyle one for bydds. receyuste thou me,
and openest thou the skye,
Or els the gate of stubborne heauen
drawe after me doo I:
Do I yet doubte: I euen the bondes
from Saturne wyll vndoe,
And euen agaynst the kyngdome prowde
of wycked father loe,
My grandsyre loase. let Titans nowe
prepare agayne theyr fyght
With me theyr captayne ragyng: stones
with woodes I wyll downe smyght,
And hye hylles topps with Centaures full
in tyght hande wyll I take.
With double mountayne nowe I wyll
a stayre to godds vp make.

Videat ſub Oſſa Pelion Chiron ſuum:
In cœlum Olympus tertio poſitus gradu
Perueniet, aut mittetur. A. Infandos procul
Auerte ſenſus: pectoris ſani parum,
Magni tamen, compeſce dementē impetum.
H. Quid hoc? gigantes arma peſtifera mouēt,
Profugit & vmbras Tityi, ac lacerum gerens
Et inane pectus, quàm propè à cœlo ſtetit?
Labat Cythæron, alta Pallene tremit,
Marcentq; Tempe. rapuit hic Pindi iuga,
Hic rapuit Oethen, ſæuit horrendum minans
Flammifera Erinnys: verbere excuſſo ſonat,
Rogiſq; aduſtas propius, ac propius ſudes
Inora tendit: ſæua Tiſiphone caput

Serpen-

Let Chiron vnder Ossa lee
his Pelion mowntayne grette:
Olympus vp to heauen aboue
in thyrde degree then sette
Shall come it selfe, or ells bee caste.
AM. Put farre awaye from thee
The thowghts that owght not to be spoake:
of mynde vnsownde to see,
But yet full great, the furyows rage
allwage and laye awaye.
HER. What meaneth this? the gyantes dog,
pestiferous armes assaye,
And Tityus from the sprights is fledde,
and bearyng tozne to see
And empty bosome, lo howe neere
to heauen it selfe stoode hee:
Cythæron falles, the mountayne hye
Pallene shakes foz feare,
And tozne are Tempe. he the toppes
of Pindus cawght hathe here,
And Oethen he, some dzedfull chyng
threatnyng doothe rage abowt
Erinnys bryngyng flames; with strypes
she soundes nowe shaken out,
And burned brandes in funeralls,
loe yet mozeneare and neare
Throwes in my face: fearce Tisyphone
with head and vgly heare

Serpentibus vallata, post raptum canem
Portam vacantem clausit, opposita face.
Sed ecce proles regis inimici latet,
Lyci nefandum semen: inuiso patri
Hæc dextra iam vos reddet. excutiat leues
Neruus sagittas: tela sic mitti decet
Herculea. A. Quò se cæcus inuergit furor?
Vastum coactis flexit arcum cornibus,
Pharetramq; soluit: stridet emissa impetu
Arundo, medio spiculum collo fugit,
Vulnere relicto. H. Cæteram prolem eruam,
Omnesq; latebras. quid moror? maius mihi
Bellum Mycenis restat, vt Cyclopea
Euersa manibus saxa nostris, concidant.

Huc

With serpents sette, nowe after doggs
set owt with Hercles hande,
That emptye gate she hathe shette vp,
with bolte of fyry brande.
But loe the flocke of enmiows kyng
doothe hydden yet remayne,
The wycked Lycus seede: but to
your hatefull father slayne
Euen nowe this ryght hande shall you sende
let nowe his arrowes fyght
My bowe owt shoote: it seemes the shaftes
to goe with suche a flyght
Of Hercles. A M. Whether doothe the rage
and fury blynde yet goe?
His myghty bowe he drewe with hornes
togyther dryuen loe,
And quyuer loaste: great noyse makes
with violence sente owt
The shafte, and quyght the weapon flewe
his myddle necke throwghowt,
The wownd yet left. HER. His other broode
I auerthrowe wyll quyght,
And cozners all. What stay I yet?
to me a greater fyght
Remaynes then all Mycenes loe,
that rockye stones shoulde all
Of Cyclops beeyng ouerturnde
with hande of myne, downe fall.

Huc eat,& illuc aula, diſiecto obice,
Rumpátq; poſtes:columen impulſum labet:
Procumbat omnis regia.hic video abditum
Gnatum ſceleſti patris. A. En blandas manus
Ad genua tendens,voce miſeranda rogat.
Scelus nefandum,triſte,& aſpectu horridum,
Dextram precantem rapuit,& circa furens
Bis, ter rotatum miſit.aſt illi caput
Sonat,cerebro tecta diſperſa madent.
At miſera paruum protegens natum ſinu
Megara,furenti ſimilis è latebris fugit.
HE.Licet Tonantis profuga condaris ſinu,
Petet vndecunq; temet hæc dextra, & feret.
A.Quò miſera pergis?quam fugã,aut latebras (petis?
Nullus

Let shake bothe here: and there the house,
with all stayes ouerthrowne,
Let breake the poasts: and quight let shrinke
the shaken pyller downe:
Let all the palayce fall at once.
I here yet hydden lee
The sonne of wycked father. AM. Loe
his flattryng handes to thee
Applyeng to thy knees doothe craue
his lyfe with pyteous mone.
O wycked gylte, full sadde, and eke
abhorde to looke vppone,
His humble ryght hande caught he hath,
and ragyng rownde abowt
Him rolled twyse, or thryse hath cast.
his head resoundeth owt,
The sprynkled bowles with the brayne
of hym thrown owt are wet.
But thee poore wretche her lyttle sonne
in bosome bydyng yet
Loe Megara, lyke one in rage
doothe from the corners flee.
HER. Thowgh runnagate in bosome of
the thundrer bydde thou bee,
This ryght hande shall from euery where
Thee seeke, and bryng to syght.
AM. wher goest thow wretch? what lurkyng
seekste thou to take, or flyght? denns,

Nullus ſalutis Hercule infenſo eſt locus:
Amplectere ipſum potius, & blanda prece
Lenire tenta. M: Parce iam coniux precor.
Agnoſce Megaram, natus hic vultus tuos,
Habituſq; reddit: cernis vt tendit manus?
H. Teneo nouercam: ſequere, da pœnas mihi,
Iugoq; preſſum libera turpi Iouem:
Sed ante matrē paruulū hoc mōſtrū auferam.
M. Quò tendis amens? ſāguinē fundes tuum?
A. Pauefactus infans igneo vultu patris,
Perit ante vulnus: ſpiritum rapuit timor.
In coniugem nūnc claua libratur grauis:
Perfregit oſſa, corpori trunco caput
Abeſt, nec vſquā eſt. cernere hoc audes nimis

Viuax

No place of sauegarde ys yf once
bee Hercles styrde with yre:
But doo thou rather hym embrace,
and with thy meeke desyre
Assaye & asswage hym. MEG. Husbande spare
vs I beseeche thee nowe,
And knowe thy Megara, this sowne
thy countenaunce doothe showe,
And bodyes pytche: beholdst thow how
his handes vp lyfteth hee?
HER. I holde my stepdame: followe o n
deiwe penawnce paye to mee,
And bownden Ione from fylthy bonde
delyuer free awaye:
But I before the mother wyll
this lyttell monster slaye.
MEG. Thou mad man whither goest thow?
wylte thou thyne owne bloode sheade?
AM, Th'infant with fathers fyry face
astonnyde all his dreade,
Dyed euen before the wownde: his feare
hath tooke away his lyfe.
And nowe lykewyse his heauy clubbe
is shaken towarde his wyfe:
The broaken hath the bones, her head
from blocklyke bodye gone
Is quight, nor any where it staies.
darste thow this looke vppon?

Viuax ſenectus ſi piget luctus, habes
Mortem paratam. pectus in tela indue,
Vel ſtipitem iſtum cæde monſtrorum illitum,
Conuerte. falſum, ac nomini turpem tuo
Remoue parentem, ne tuæ laudi obſtrepat.
T. Quò te ipſe genitor obuium morti ingeris?
Quò pergis amens? profuge, & obtectus late,
Vnumq; manibus aufer Herculeis ſcelus.
H. Bene habet, pudẽdi regis exciſa eſt domus.
Tibi hunc dicatum maximi coniux Iouis
Gregem cecîdi: vota perſolui libens
Te digna, & Argos victimas alias dabit.
A. Nondum litaſti nate, conſumma ſacrum.
Stat ecce ad aras hoſtia, expectat manum

Ceruice

To long lyude age: yf mournyng doo
thee greue, thou hast then loe
The deathe preparde. Doo thou thy breast
vppon his weapons throe,
Or ells this clubbe with slaughter stayndes
of monsters slayne that bee,
Nowe hyther turne. thy parent false,
vnfytte for name of thee
Kyd hens away, least he shoulde be
to thy renowne a let.

THE. Which waie ỹ father toward thy death
dooste thow thy selfe caste yet:
Or whyther goest thou madde man: flee,
and lye thow cloasely hyd,
And yet from handes of Hercules
this onely myschiefe ryd.

HER. Tis well, the howse of shameful kyng
ys nowe quyght ouerthrowne.
To thee O spowse of greatest Ioue
I haue los beaten downe
This offred flocke: I gladly haue
fulfylde my wyshes all
Full meete for thee, and Argos nowe
geeue other offryngs shall.

AM. Thow hast not ionne yet al performde,
fyll vp the sacrifyse.
Loe th'offryng doothe at th'aultars stande,
it waytes thy hande lykewyse

With

Ceruice prona: præbeo, occurro, insequor,
Macta. Quid hoc est? errat acies luminum,
Visusq; mœror hebetat. an video Herculis
Manus trementes? vultus in somnum cadit,
Et fessa ceruix capite summisso labat,
Flexo genu: iam totus ad terram ruit,
Vt cæsa syluis ornus, aut portus mari
Datura moles, viuis? an leto dedit
Idem, tuos qui misit ad mortem, furor?
Sopor est, reciprocos spiritus motus agit.
Detur quieti tempus, vt somno grauis
Vis victa morbi, pectus oppressum leuet.
Remouete famuli tela, ne repetat furens.

Chorus.

Anapæstici, Adonii duo.

Lugeat

With necke full prone: I gyue my selfe,
I roon, I followe lee.
Wee sacrifyce. what meaneth thise
his eyes rolle to and froe,
And heauynesse doothe dull his syght.
see I of Hercules
The trembling hands: down falles his face
to sleepe and quietnes,
And weery necke with bowed head
full fasse doothe downewarde shrynke,
With bended knee: nowe all at once
he downe to grownde doothe synke,
As in the woodes wylde asshe cut downe,
or bulwarke for to make
A hauen in seas. Lynde thow: or els
to deathe doothe thee betake
The selfe same rage, that hath sent all
thy kamylye to deathe:
It is but sleepe, for to and froe
doothe goe and come his breathe.
Let tyme bee had of quietnesse,
that thus by sleepe and reste
Create force of his disease subdewde,
may ease his greeued breste.
Remoue his weapons seruantes, least
he madde gette them agayne.

CHORVS.

Let

Hercul. fur. Senecæ.

LVgeat æther, magnúſq; parens
Ætheris alti, telluſq; ferax,
Et vaga ponti mobilis vnda.
Tuq; ante omnes, qui per terras,
Tractuſq; maris fundis radios,
Noctemq; fugas ore decoro,
Feruide Titan: obitus pariter
Tecum Alcides vidit, & ortus:
Nouitq; tuas vtraſq; domos.
Soluite tantis animum monſtris,
Soluite ſuperi: rectam in melius,
Flectite mentem. tuq; ô domitor
Somne laborum, requies animi,
Pars humanæ melior vitæ,
Volucre matris genus Aſtreæ,
Frater duræ languidæ mortis,
Veris miſcens falſa, futuri
Certus, & idem peſsimus author:
Pater ô rerum, portus vitæ,
Lucis requies, noctiſq; comes,
Qui par regi, famuloq; venis,
Placidus feſſum, leniſq; foues,
Pauidum leti genus humanum,
Cogis longam diſcere mortem.
Preme deiectum torpore graui,
Sopor indomitos alliget artus,
Nec torua prius pectora linquat,
Quàm mens repetat priſtina curſum.

LEt th'ayre cōplain, & eke ẏ parent great
of haughty sky, & fertile lād throughout,
And wādryng waue of euer mouing freate.
And thow before thē all, which lands about
And train of sea thy beams abroad dost throe
with glyttryng face, & makst ẏ night to flee,
O feruent Titan: bothe thy settyngs loe
and rysyng, hath Alcides seene with thee:
& known likewise he hath thy howsē twayn,
from so great yls release ye nowe his brest,
O godds release: to better turne agayne
his ryghter mynde. and thow O tamer best
O sleepe of toyles, the quietnesse of mynde,
of all the lyfe of man the better parte,
O of thy mother astrey wynged kynde,
of hard and pinyng death that brother arte,
With truth mingling the false, of after state
The sure, but eke the worste foreteller yet:
O father of all thynges, of lyfe the gate,
Of light the rest, of nyght and felowe fytte,
that comst to kyng, and seruant equallye,
And gentlye cherysshest who weerye bee,
All mankynde loe that dredfull is to dye,
thou doost cōstrain lōg deth to learn by thee.
keepe him fast bound wͭ heauy slepe opprest,
Let slōber depe his limmes vntamed bynde,
Nor sooner leaue his vnryght ragyng brest,
Thē former mīd his course again may fynd.

Loe

En fusus humi saeua feroci
Corde volutat somnia: nondum est
Tanti pestis superata mali:
Clauaq; graui lassum solitus
Mandare caput, quærit vacua
Pondera dextra, motu iactans
Brachia vano: nec adhuc omnes
Expulit æstus: sed, vt ingenti
Vexato Noto, seruat longos
Vnda tumultus, & iam vento
Cessante, tumet. pelle insanos
Fluctus animi, redeat pietas,
Virtúsq; viro, vel sit potius
Mens vesano concita motu:
Error cæcus, quà cœpit, eat.
Solus te iam præstare potest
Furor insontem: proxima puris
Sors est manibus, nescire nefas.
Nunc Herculeis percussa sonent
Pectora palmis: mundum solitos
Ferre lacertos, verbera pulsent
Victrice manu: gemitus vastos
Audiat æther, audiat atri
Regina poli, vastíq; ferox
Qui colla gerit vincta catenis,
Imo latitans Cerberus antro.
Resonet mœsto clamore chaos,
Latiq; patens vnda profundi.

Lo layd on grou̅d w̄ full fierce hart yet ſkyll
His cruell ſleepes he turnes: and not yet is
The plague ſubdewde of ſo great raging yll:
And an great clubbe the weery head of his
He woont to lay, dothe ſeeke ẏ ſtaffe to fynde
With empty hand, his armes owt caſtīg yet
With mouing vayn: no; yet all rage of mynde
he hath laid down: but, as w̄ ſouth wind gret
The waue once vext, yet after kepeth ſtyll
his ragyng long, & though the wind now be
Allwaged, ſwells. ſhake of theſe madde & yll
raſſyngs of mynde, returne let pietee,
And vertue to the man, ells let be ſo
his mynd with mouing mad toſt euery way:
Let errour blynde, where it begoon hath, go.
fo; nowght els now but only madnes may
Thee gyltleſſe make: in next eſtate it ſtands
to hurtles hands, thy miſchief not to knowe.
Now ſtrooken let with Hercules his hands
thy boſoms ſou̅d: thyne armes ẏ wo;ld alow
wer wōt to bear, let greuo⁹ ſtrips now ſmite
with cōquryng hād: & loude cōplainīg cries
Let th'aire now here: let of dark pole & might
the quene them heave, & who ful fierſely lyes
That bears his necks in mighty chains faſt
low lurking Cerberus in depreſt caue. (bou̅d,
Let Chaos all with clamour ſad reſound,
and of b;oade ſea wide open waſting waue.

And

Et qui melius, tua tela tamen
Senſerat, æther.
Pectora tantis obſeſſa malis,
Non ſunt ictu ferienda leui.
Vno planctu tria regna ſonent,
Et tu collo decus, ac telum
Suſpenſa diu fortis arundo,
Pharetræq; leues, date ſæua fero
Verbera tergo. cedant humeros
Robora fortes, ſtipéſq; potens
Duris oneret pectora nodis.
Plangant tantos arma dolores.
Non vos patriæ laudis comites,
Vlti ſæuo vulnere reges:
Non Argiua membra palæſtra,
Flectere docti fortes ceſtu,
Fortéſq; manu: iam tamen auſi
Telum Sythici leue Corithi
Miſsum certa librare manu,
Tutóſq; fuga figere ceruos,
Nondumq; feræ terga iubatæ.
Ite ad Stygios vmbræ portus,
Ite innocuæ, quas in primo
Limine vitæ, ſcelus oppreſsit,
Patriúſq; furor. ite infauſtum
Genus ô pueri, noti per iter
Triſte laboris.
Ite, iratos viſite reges.

And th' ayre that felt thy weapõs better yet,
But felt them thowgh.
The brestes with so greate yls as these beset,
with litle stroake they must not beaten be.
Let kyngdoms three soũd w̃ one plait & cry,
and thow neckes honowr, & defence to se,
His arrowe strong long hanged vp on hye,
& quiuers light, ỹ cruel strypes now smyght
on his fierce back. his shoulders strõg & stowt
let oken clubbe now stryke, & poaste of might
w̃ knots full harde his brests loade al about.
let euen his weapõs so greate woes cõplain.
Not you poore babes mates of your fathers
w̃ cruel woũd reuẽging kings agaī: (praise,
not you your limes in argos barriars plaies,
Are taught to turn w̃ wepõ strõg to smight,
& strõg of hãd: yet euẽ now daring loe
the weapon of the Scythian quiuer light
With steady hand to paise sẽt out frõ bowe,
and stags to perse ỹ saue thẽ selues by flyght,
and backes not yet full maend of cruel beast.
To Stygiã hauens goe ye of shade & night,
goe hurtles souls, whõ mischief hath oppressed
Euen in first porche of lyfe but lately hadde,
And fathers furye. goe vnhappy kynde
O little chyldren, by the way full sadde
Of iourneye knowne.
Goe, see the angrye kyngs.

Hercul.fur.Sen.

ACTVS QVINTVS

Hercules Amphitryon.
Theseus.
Trimetri Iambici.

QVis hic locus? quæ regio? quæ mundi (plaga?
Vbi sum? sub ortu solis, an sub cardine
Glacialis vrsæ? nunquid Hesperii maris
Extrema tellus hunc dat oceano modum?
Quas trahimus auras? quod solũ fesso subest?
Certe redimus. vnde prostrata domo
Video cruenta corpora? an nondum exuit
Simulacra mens inferna? post reditus quoq;
Oberrat oculos turba feralis meos?
Pudet fateri, pauco, nescio quod mihi,
Nescio quod animus grãde præsagit malum.
Vbi est parens? vbi illa natorum grege

Animosa

¶ The fyfthe Acte.

Hercules, Amphitryon, Theseus.

WHat place is this? what region?
or of the worlde what coaste?
Where am I? vnder ryse of sonne,
or vnder els vttermoste
Of th'yey beare? or els doothe here
of sea of Hesperye
The fardest grownde appoynte a bonde
for th'ocean sea to lye?
What ayre drawe we? to weery wyghte
what grownde is vndersette?
Of truthe we are returnde from hell,
whence in my howse downe bette
See I these bloudy bodyes? hath
not yet my mynde of cast
Thinfernall shapes? but after yet
returne from hell at last
Yet wander dooth that helly heape
before myne eyes to see?
I am ashamde to grawnte, I quake,
I knowe not what to mee,
I can not tell what greuous yll
my mynde before dooth knowe.
Where is my parent? where is shee
with goodly chyldrens showe

Animosa coniux? cur latus læuum vacat

Spolio leonis? quonam abiit tegmen meum?

Idemq; somno mollis Herculeo torus?

Vbi tela? vbi arcus? arma quis viuo mihi

Detrahere potuit? spolia quis tanta abstulit?

Ipsumq; quis non Herculis somnum horruit?

Libet meum videre victorem, libet:

Exurge victor. quem nouum cœlo pater

Genuit relicto? cuius incestu steterit

Nox lõgior, quàm nostra? quod cerno nefas?

Nati cruenta cæde confecti iacent:

Perempta conux: quis Lycus regnũ obtinet?

Quis tanta Thebis scelera moliri ausus est

Hercule reuerso? quisquis Ismeni loca,

My noble hartye stomakt spowse:
why dothe my lefte syde lacke
The lyons spoyle: whiche waye is gone
the couer of my backe:
And selfe same bed full softe for sleepe
of Hercules also:
Where are my shaftes: where ys my bowe:
Them from me lyuing who
Cowlde plucke awaye: who taken hathe
the spoyles so greate as thes:
And who was he that fearyd not
euen sleepe of Hercules:
To see my conquerour me lykes,
yt lykes me hym to knowe:
Kyse victor vp. what newe sonne hath
my father gotten nowe
Heauen beeynge left: at byrthe of whome
myght euer stayed bee
A longer nyght, then was in myne:
what mischiefe do I see:
My chyldren los do lye on growndе
with bloodie slawghter slayne:
My wyfe is kyllde: what Lycus dothe
the kyngedome yet obtayne:
Who durst so heynous gyltes as these
At Thebes take in hande
When Hercles is returnde: who so
Ismenus waters lande,

Actæa quisquis arua, qui gemino mari
Pulsata Pelopis regna Dardanii colis,
Succurre: sæuæ cladis authorem indica.
Ruat ira in omnes: hostis est, quisquis mihi
Non monstrat hostem. victor Alcidæ lates?
Procede, seu tu vindicas currus truces
Thracis cruenti, siue Geryonis pecus,
Libyæue dominos, nulla pugnandi mora est.
En nudus asto, vel meis armis licet
Petas inermem. cur meos Theseus fugit
Paterq; vultus? ora cur condunt sua?
Differte fletus, quis meos dederit nect
Omnes simul, profare. quid genitor siles?
At tu ede Theseu, sed tua Theseu fide.

Vterq;

Who so Acteons fieldes, or who
with dowble seas beset
The shaken Pelops kyngdomes dosse
of Mardan dwell on yet,
Pealpe me: of cruell slawghter showe
who may the authos bee.
Let rage my yze on all: my fos
he ys, who so to mee
Showes not my foe. dosse thou yet hydd
Alcides victour lye:
Come forthe, euen whether thow reuenge
the cruell chariots hys
Of bloudy Thracian kyng, or yf
thow Geryons catell quyght,
Or lordes of Libya, no delaye
there ys with thee to fyght.
Beholde I naked stande, although
euen with wy weapons loe
Thow me vnarmed sette vppon.
wherfore fleeth Theseus soe
And eke my father from my syght:
theyr faces why hyde they:
Deferre your weeppyngs, and who dyd
my wyfe and chyldren sley
Thus all at ones, me tell. Wherfore
O father dosst thow whusshte:
But tell thow Theseu, but Theseu
with thy accustomde trusste.

Vterq; tacitus ora pudibunda obtegit,
Furtimq; lachrymas fundit.in tantis malis,
Quid est pudendum?nunquid Argiuæ potés
Dominator vrbis,nunquid infestum Lyci
Pereuntis agmen,clade nos tanta obruit?
Per te meorum facinorum laudem precor
Genitor,tuiq; nominis semper mihi
Numen secundum,fare,quis fudit domum?
Cui præda iacui? A.Tacita sic abeant mala.
H.Vt inulto ego sim? A.Sæpe vindicta obfuit.
HE.Quisquámne segnis tanta tolerauit mala?
A.Maiora quisquis timuit.HE.His etiã pater
Quid quam timeri maius, aut grauius potest?
A.Cladis tuæ pars ista,quam nosti,quota est?

HER.

Eche of them ſylent hydes awaye
their baſhefull cowntnawnces,
And pꝛyuelye they ſhedde their teares.
In ſo greate yls as thes,
Of what owghte we aſhamde to bee:
dothe ruler yet of myght
Of Argos towne, oꝛ hateſull bande
Of ſowldyars apte to fyght
Of Lycus dyinge, vs oppꝛeſſe
with ſuch calamytee:
By pꝛayſe of all my noble actes
I do deſyꝛe of thes
O father, and of thy great name
appꝛoude to me alwaye
The pꝛoſperous powꝛe, declare to me,
who dyd my houſholde ſlaye:
Whoſe pꝛaye laye I: A. Let thus thyne yls
in ſylence ouerpas.
HE. That I ſhoulde vnreuenged bee:
A M. Reuenge ofte hurtfull was.
HE. Dyd euer man ſo greuows ylles
without reuenge ſuſtayne:
A. Whoſ euer greater feard. H. Then theſe,
O father yet agayne
Way any greater thing, oꝛ els
Moꝛe greuows feared bee:
AM. Yow greate a parte is it thow woteſt,
Of thy calamitee:

Her.

He. Miſerere genitor, ſupplices tendo manus.
Quid hoc? manus refugit, hic errat ſcelus.
Vnde hic cruor? quid illa puerili madens
Arundo leto, tincta Lernæa nece?
Iam tela video noſtra, non quæro manum.
Quæ potuit arcum flectere? aut quæ dextera
Sinuare neruum, vix recedentem mihi?
Ad vos reuertor: genitor, hoc noſtrũ eſt ſcel'?
Tacuere: noſtrum eſt. A. Luctus eſt iſtic tuus,
Crimen nouercæ: caſus hic culpa caret.
Her. Nunc parte ab omni genitor iratus tona,
Oblite nati, vindica ſæua manu
Saltem nepotes: ſtelliger mundus ſonet,
Flammas & hic, & ille iaculetur polus:

Rupes

HER. Take mercy father, lo I lyfte
to thee my humble handes.
What meaneth this? my hand fleeth backe,
some priuye gylte here standes.
Whēce coms this blood? or what doth mean
flowyng with deathe of chylde
The shafte, enbrewde with slawghter once
of Lerney monster kylde?
I see my weapons nowe, the hande
I seeke no more to wyt.
Whose hand could bend this bow but myne?
or what ryght arme but yt
Coulde stryng the bowe, that vnto me
Euen scantely doothe obaye?
To you I tourne: O father deere,
is thys my gylte I praye?
They bealde they? peace: it is myne owne.
AM. Thy greeuous woe is there,
The cryme thy stepdames: this my schawnce
no fawte of thyne hath here.
HER. From euery part now father throwe
in wrathe thy thunders myght,
And of thy sonne forgetfull nowe,
with cruell hande requyght
At least thy nephewes: let the worlde
that beares the starres sownde owt,
And let bothe th'one and th'other poale,
flyng downe thy flames abowt:

And

Rupes ligatum Caſpiæ corpus trahant,
Atq; ales auida. cur Promethei vacant
Scopuli? paretur vertice immenſo, feras
Volucréſq; paſcens, Caucaſi abruptum latus,
Nudúmq; ſyluis. illa, quæ pontum Scythen
Symplegas arctat, hinc & hinc vinctas manus
Diſtendat alto: cumq; reuocata vice
In ſe coibunt, ſaxáq; in cœlum expriment
Actis vtrinq; rupibus, & medium mare,
Ego inquieta montium iaceam mora.
Quin ſtructum aceruans nemore congeſto ag (gerem,
Cruore corpus impio ſparſum, cremo?
Sic, ſic agendum eſt: inferis reddam Herculẽ.
A. Nondum tumultu pectus attonitum caret,

Mutauit

And let the bankes of Caspian sea
my bownden bodye teare,
And greedye fowle. Wherefore doe of
Prometheus lacke heare
The rockes: with huge and hawtye toppe
let now prepared bee,
Bothe feedyng beastes and fowles, the syde
Of Caucas torne to see,
And bare of woods. the pie that brydge
Of Scythe that thereby standes
Symplegas ioynes, bothe here and there
Let it my bounden handes
Stretch out abroade: and when with course
returnde accustomdlye
They shall togyther dryue, and shall
the rockes tosse vp to skye
With bankes togyther beyng thrustе,
and eke the myddle scaye,
Let me betwene the mountaynes lye
vnquiet restlesse staye.
But buyldynge vp with woode thrown on
a heaped pyle on hye,
My body thus with wycked blonde
besprynkt, why burne not I:
So, so yt must bee doone: to hell
I Hercles wyll resorte.
AM. Not yet his harte astonyde lackes
his ragyng tumulte sore,

But

Mutauit iras: quodq; habet proprium furor,
In se ipse sæuit. Her. Dira furiarum loca
Et inferorum carcer, & sonti plaga
Decreta turbæ, & si quod exilium latet
Vlterius Erebo, Cerbero ignotum & mihi,
Huc me abde tellus: Tartari ad finem vltimum
Mansurus ibo. pectus ô nimium ferum:
Quis vos per omnem liberi sparsos domum,
Deflere digne poterit? hic durus malis
Lachrymare vultus, nescit. huc ensem date,
Date huc sagittas, stipitem huc vastum date:
Tibi tela frangam nostra, tibi nostros puer
Rumpemus arcus, ac tuis stipes grauis,
Ardebit vmbris: ipsa Lernæis frequens

Pharetra

But wrathe hath turnde: and which of rage
ys propertie and yre
Agaynst him selfe he rageth now.
HER. The furies places dyre
And dongeon deepe of spryghts yn hell
and place of tormentrye
To gylty ghosts, and banishment
yf any yet doo lye
Beyonde Erebus, yet vnknowen
to Cerberus and mee,
There hyde me growndes to farthest bondes
of Tartarus to see
To tarye there Ile goe. O breste
of myne to fierce and fowte:
Who yow my chyldren thus dispersse
through all my house abowte,
Maye worthyly enowghe bewayle:
in all my euyls yet
This countnaunce harde, can neuer wepe.
a swoorde nowe hyther set,
My shaftes reatche hyther, hyther reatche
my myghty clubbe also:
To thee my weapons breake I will,
to thee my sonne, atwo
Ile knappe my bowes, and eke my clubbe
this blocke of heauye wayght,
Shall to thy spryghts bee burned loe:
this selfe same quyuer fraught

wyth

Pharetra telis, in tuos ibit rogos.

Dent arma pœnas, vos quoq; infaustas meis

Cremabo telis, ô nouercales manus.

T. Quis nomen vnquã sceleris errori indidit?

H. Sæpe error ingens sceleris obtinuit locũ.

T. Nunc Hercule opus est, perfer hãc molem (mali.

H. Non sic furore cessit extinctus pudor:

Populos vt omnes impio aspectu fugem.

Arma, arma Theseu, flagito propere mihi

Subtracta reddi: sana si mens est mihi,

Referte manibus tela: si remanet furor,

Pater recede: mortis inueniam viam.

A. Per sancta generis sacra, per ius nominis

Vtrunq; nostri, siue me altorem vocas,

Seu

With Lerney shaftes, to funerall
of thyne shall likewise go.
Let all my weapons penawnce paye,
and yow vnhappye to
Euen with my weapons burne I will,
Of kepdames handes of myne.
Th. who euer yet to Ignorannce
hath geuen name of cryme?
Her Full oftentymes dyd errour greate
the place of gylt obtayne.
Th. Tys neede to be a Hercles nowe,
this heape of ill sustayne.
Her. Not so hath shame yet geuen place
with furye drowned quight:
But peoples all I rather shoulde
dryue from my wycked sight.
My weapons, weapons Theseus,
I quickly craue to mes
withdrawen to be restorde agayne:
if sownde my mynde now bee,
Restore to me my weapons: if
yet last my rage of mynde,
Then father flee: for I the waye
to death my selfe shall fynde.
Am. By sacred holye kynreds rights,
by force and duetie all
Of bothe my names, yf eyther mee
thy brynger vp thou call,

Seu tu parentem, perq; venerando spiis
Canos, senectæ parce desertæ precor,
Annisq; fessis: vnicum lapsæ domus
Firmamen, vnum lumen afflicto malis
Temet reserua: nullus ex te contigit
Fructus laborum, semper aut dubium mare,
Aut monstra timui: quisquis in toto fuit
Rex sæuus orbe, manibus, & aris nocens,
A me timetur: semper absentis pater
Fructum tui contactum & aspectum peto.
HE. Cur animam in ista luce detineam ampli⁹
Morerq;, nihil est: cuncta iam amisi bona,
Mentem, arma, famam, coniugē, naros, man⁹,
Etiam furorem. nemo polluto queat

Or parent ells, and (whiche of good
men reuerenced are)
By these hoare heares, I thee beseche
my desert age yet spare,
And werye yeares: of howse falne downe
the one alonely staye,
One onely lyght to me, with ylles
afflicted euery waye
Reserue thy selfe: yet neuer hath
there hapned once of thee
Frute of thy toyles: styll eyther I
the dowtfull seae to see
Or monsters fearde: who euer yet
hathe bene a cruell kyng
In all the worlde, to ghosts alowe,
and aulters both hurtyng,
Of me ys fearde: the father of
thee absent styll, to haue
The frute, the towching, and the sight,
of thee at length I craue.
He. wherfore I longer shoulde sustaine
my lyfe yet in this lyght,
And lynger here no cause there is:
all good lost haue I quight,
My mynde, my weapons, my renowne,
my wyfe, my sonnes, my handes,
And furye to. no man may heale
and loase from gyltye bandes

my

Animo mederi: morte ſanandum eſt ſcelus.

Th. Perimes parentem? Her. Facere ne poſsim (occidam

Th. Genitore corã? He. Cernere hũc docui ne (fas

Th. Memorãda potius omnibus facta intuens

Vnius a te criminis veniam peto.

He. Veniam dabit ſibi ipſe, qui nulli dedit?

Laudanda feci iuſſus, hoc vnum meum eſt.

Succurre genitor, ſiue te pietas mouet,

Seu triſte fatum, ſiue violatæ decus

Virtutis: effer arma, vincatur mea

Fortuna dexrra. Th. Sũt quidem patriæ preces

Satis efficaces, ſed tamen noſtro quoq;

Moueare fletu: ſurge, & aduerſa impetu

Perfringe ſolito. nunc tuum nulli imparem

Animum

My mynde dekyllde: needes muſt with deth,
be healde ſo heinous yll.
Th. wilt thou thy father ſlay? He. Leaſt I
ſhould doe it dye I will.
Th. Before thy fathers face? He. I taught
hym miſchiefe for to ſe.
Th. Thy deedes markyng rather that ſhould
of all remembred be,
Of this ons onely cryme I doe
a pardon of thee craue.
Her. Shall he geue pardon to hym ſelfe,
that to none els it gaue?
I beeyng bidden prayſe deſernd,
this deede mine owne dothe proue.
Helpe father now, if eyther els
thy pietye thee moue,
Or els my heauy fate, or els
the honour and renowne
Of ſtained ſtrength: my weapons bryng,
let fortune be throwen downe
with my right hande. Th. The praiers which
thy father makes to thee
Are ſtronge enough, but yet likewiſe
with wepyng loe of me
Be moued yet: aryſe thou vp,
and with thy wonted myght
Subdue thyne yls: now ſuche a mynde
vnmeete to beare vpright

No

Animum malo reſume: nunc magna tibi
Virtute agendum eſt, Herculem iraſci veta
He Si viuo, feci ſcelera: ſi morior, tuli.
Purgare terras propero, iamq; dudum mihi
Monſtrũ impium, ſæuumq;, & immite ac ferũ
Oberrat: agedum dextra conare aggredi
Ingens opus, labore biſſeno amplius.
Ignaue ceſſas, fortis in pueros modo,
Pauidamq; matrem? arma niſi dentur mihi,
Aut omne Pindi Thracis excidam nemus,
Bacchiq; lucos, & Cytharonis iuga
Mecum cremabo. tota cum domibus ſuis,
Dominiſq; tecta, cum deis templa omnibus
Thebana, ſupra corpus excipiam meum:

Atq;,

No euyll hap, receyue agayne:
loe now with manhode gret
Thou must preuayle, euen Hercules
forbyd with pre to fret.
HE. Alyue, I hurte: but yf I dye,
I take the gylt also.
I haste to rydde the worlde of cryme,
euen now before me lo
A wycked monster, cruell, and
vntamed, fierce, and stoute
Do the wander: now with thy ryght hande
begyn to goe aboute
A greate assayze, yea more then all
thy twise syx labours long.
Yet stayste thou wretche, that late agaynste
the children waste so strong,
And fearefull mother: now except
restoarde my weapons be,
Of Thracian Pindus eyther I
wyll teare downe euery tree,
and Bacchus hollye woods, and toppes
of mount Cythæron hye
Burne with my selfe. and all at once
with all their housen I
And with the Lordes therof the roofes,
with goddes of Thebes all:
The Thebane temples euen vppon
my bodye will lette fall:

And

Atq; vrbe euersa condar: & si fortibus
Leue pondus humeris mœnia immissa incidẽ
Septemq; opertus non satis portis premar,
Onus omne media parte qua mundus sedet,
Dirimitq; superos, in meum vertam caput.
Redde arma. Am. Vox est digna genitore Her (culis.
Hoc en peremptus spiculo cecidit puer,
Hoc Iuno telum manibus emisit tuis,
Hoc nunc ego vtar. Ecce quàm miserum metu
Cor palpitat, corpusq; solicitum ferit.
Aptata arundo est, ecce iam facies scelus
Volens, sciensq,: pande, quid fieri iubes?
Nihil rogamus, noster in tuto est dolor.
Natum potes seruare tu solus mihi

Theseu,

And wyll be hyd in towne vpturnde:
if to my shoulders might
The walles themselues all cast thereon
shall fall a burden lyght,
And couerde with seuen gates I shall
not be enough oppresst,
Then all the wayght whereon the worlde
in middle parte doth rest,
And partes the Gods, vpon my hed
Ile turne and ouerthroe.
My weapons geeue. Am. This word is mete
for Hercles father loe.
With this same arrowe slayne beholde
thy sonne is tombled downe,
This weapon cruell Juno lo
from handes of thyne hath throwne,
This same will I now vse. loe see
how leapes with feare affright
My wretched hart, and how it doth
my carefull body smight.
The shafte is set thereto, thou shalt
a mischiefe loe do now
Both willing it, and wotting: tell,
what thing commaundest thou:
I nothing craue, my dolour loe
in safetie standeth now.
To kepe my sonne aliue to me
that onely do canst thou

o Theseu,

Theſeu, ipſe necdum maximum euaſi metum.
Miſerũ haud potes me facere, fœlicem potes.
Sic ſtatue quidquid ſtatuis, vt cauſam tuam,
Famamq; in arcto ſtare, & ancipiti ſcias:
Aut vinis, aut occidis: hanc animam leuem,
Feſſamq; ſenio, nec minus quaſſam malis,
In ore primo teneo. tam tarde patri.
Vitam dat aliquis? non feram vlterius moram,
Letale ferrum pectori impreſſum induam,
Hic, hic iacebit Herculis ſani ſcelus.
He iam parce genitor, parce, iã reuoca manũ
Succumbe virtus, perfer imperium patris.
Eat ad labores hic quoq; Herculeos labor,
Viuamus. artus alleua afflictos ſolo,

Theſeu

O Theseu, yet I haue not scapte,
greatst feare that happen can.
Thou canst me not a myser make,
thou maist a happy man.
So order euery thyng thou dooste,
as all thy cause in hande,
And fame thou mayst well know in straygh
and doutfull case to stande:
Thou liust, or dyest: thys slender sowle
that lyght is hense to flee,
Werped with age, and no lesse bet
with greuous yls to see,
In mouthe I holde. so slowlye to
a father wish suche staye
Dothe any man geue lyse: I wyll
no longer byde delaye,
The dedlye swoorde throughout my brest
to stryke I will applye,
Here, here the gylt of Hercules
cucu sownde of mynde shall lye.
Her. Forbeare O father now, forbeare,
withdrawe thy hande agayne.
My manhode yeelde, thy fathers wyll,
and Imperye sustayne.
To Hercles labours now lykewyse,
let this one labour goe,
Let me yet lyue. lyfte vp from grounde
thafflicted lymmes with woe,

O Theseu

Theſeu parentis: dextra contactus pios
Scelerata refugit. Am. Hanc manũ amplector (libens
Hac nixus ibo, pectori hanc ergo admouens
Pellã dolores. Her. Quẽ locũ profugus petã?
Vbi me recondam? quave tellure obruam?
Quis Tanais, aut quis Nilus, aut quis perſica
Violentus vnda Tigris aut Rhenus ferox,
Tagúsve ibera turbidus gaza fluens,
Abluere dextram poterit? Arctoum licet
Mæotis in me gelida transfundat mare,
Et tota Tethys per meas currat manus,
Hærebit altum facinus: in quas impius
Terras recedes? ortum, an occaſum petes?
Vbiq; notus perdidi exilio locum.

Me

O Theseu of my parent: for
from godly touche doth fle
My wicked hande. Am. I gladly doe
this hande embrace to me.
By this I beeyng stayed will goe,
this mouing to my brest
Ile slake my woes. Her. what place shal I
seeke roonagate for rest:
Where shall I hyde my selfe: or in
what lande my selfe engraue:
What Tanais, or what Nilus els,
or with his persyan waue
what Tigris violent of streame,
or what fierce Rhenus flood,
Or Tagus troublesome that flowes
with Ibers treasures good
May my right hande now wash from gylt:
although Xantis collde
The waues of all the Northen seae
on me shed out now wollde,
And al the water thereof shoolde
now passe by my two handes,
Yet will the mischieke deepe remayne.
Alas into what landes
wilt thou o wicked man resorte:
to East, or westerne coste:
Eche where well knowen, all place I haue
of banishments quight loste

From

Me refugit orbis, attracti anſuersos agunt
Obliqua curſus, ipſe Titan Cerberum
Meliore vultu vidit. ô fidum caput
Theſeu, latebram quære, longinquam, abditã.
Quicunq; ſemper ſceleris alieni arbiter
Amas nocentes, gratiam meritis refer:
Vicemq; noſtris. redde me infernis precor
Vmbris reductum: meq; ſubiectum tuis
Reſtitue vinclis. ille me abſcondet locus:
Sed & ille nouit. Th. Noſtra te tellus manet.
Illic ſolutam cæde gradiuus manum
Reſtituit armis: illa te Alcide vocat,
Facere innocentes terra, quæ ſuperos ſolet.

FINIS.

Frō me the worlde doth flee a backe,
the starres that sydelyng roen
Do backwarde dryue their turned course,
euen Cerberus the soons
mich better countnaunce dio b. holde.
o faythfull frende I saye
o Theseu, seeke some lurkyng place,
farce hence, out of the waye.
O thou awarder of mens gyltes
what euer iudge thou be
That hurtefull men doest loue, repaye
a worthy thanke to me:
And my desertes. I thee beseeche,
to ghostes of hell agayne
Sende me that ones escaped them:
and subiect to thy rayne
Restore me yet to those thy bandes.
that place shall me well hyde:
And yet euen that place knowes me well.
Th. Our lande for thee doth byde.
There Mars, his band acquit agayne
and made from slaughter free
Restoarde to armour: loe that lande
(Alcides) calles for thee,
which wontes to quight the gods, and proue
them Innocent to be.

FINIS.

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ANNO DOMINI. M.D.LXI.

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